

TURDAY, JULY 1995  
FDA says nicotine is a drug  
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has concluded that nicotine is a drug, and that the way for the regulation of nicotine is to do about its use as a drug.  
The FDA's decision is based on the fact that nicotine is addictive, and that it can cause health problems. The agency said it was considering the possibility of regulating nicotine as a drug, rather than as a food additive.  
The FDA's decision is part of a broader effort to regulate the tobacco industry. The agency has been working on a comprehensive plan to regulate tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco.  
The FDA's decision is expected to lead to new regulations on the sale and use of nicotine. The agency is considering the possibility of requiring nicotine testing for tobacco products, and of imposing new restrictions on the sale of nicotine to minors.  
The FDA's decision is also expected to lead to new regulations on the advertising of tobacco products. The agency is considering the possibility of requiring tobacco companies to disclose the addictive nature of nicotine, and of imposing new restrictions on the use of tobacco in advertising.

**127 suspects rounded up in Assiut**  
ASSIUT (AP) — Police rounded up 127 suspected militants Friday and Saturday in the southern province of Assiut following the slaying of eight police over the past two weeks, security sources said. The arrests came in raids on hideouts of suspected militants, the sources said. The city of Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo, has been a centre of radicals opposed to the government. An Interior Ministry official in Cairo said raids also were carried out in other southern provinces plagued by violence, but he could not confirm the number of arrests. The official added that any suspect not on government wanted rolls would be released immediately. This number of arrests is the biggest since the failed attempt on President Hosni Mubarak's life in Ethiopia last month. No figure was given for those arrests, but they were believed to number in the dozens or possibly hundreds.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراية

**Gunmen kill Palestinian policeman**  
GAZA CITY (AP) — Unidentified, masked gunmen shot and killed a policeman guarding the house of Gaza's chief civil judge Saturday, a police chief said. Brigadier General Ghazi Jabali, head of the civil police, said three gunmen opened fire at Akram Ahmad as he stood outside the house of Judge Qusai Al Abdali on Nasr Street and then fled in their white Peugeot. "We're looking for the culprits and we hope to catch them," said Gen. Jabali. Scores of policemen fanned out throughout Gaza City and set up checkpoints that stopped cars and asked for identifications. It was the first time that unknown assailants opened fire on a policeman since the force was set up in the Gaza enclave when autonomy was established there in May 1994. Majed Abedi, who owns a shop with pinball machines across from Mr. Abdali's house, said the three men, equipped with assault rifles, got out of the car and opened fire at the policeman. "When they started shooting, the people on the street tried to stop them," he said. "But the gunmen started firing in the direction of the people before speeding off in their car."

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## King phones Moroccan leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday evening telephoned King Hassan II of Morocco to exchange views over the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Bosnian people's plight in the light of the continued attacks by Serb forces. The King said that appropriate measures should be taken by the world community to stop this tragedy and expressed Jordan's readiness to join any effort to end the sufferings of the Bosnian people. He said Jordan will be ready to join the efforts of Islamic and other regional and international organisations in providing aid to the Bosnian people. Discussion also covered developments at the pan-Arab and world levels as well as bilateral relations. The two monarchs agreed to maintain contacts over matters of concern to the Arab Nation.

## Swaziland invites King and Queen

AMMAN (P-tra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received at the Royal Court the foreign minister of Swaziland, Solomon Delamini, who conveyed to the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor an invitation by King Mswati III of Swaziland to visit his country. King Hussein voiced appreciation of the invitation and asked the minister to convey his greetings to King Mswati.

## Austria backs Palestinian rights

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** (AP) — A senior Austrian official visited the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Arab East Jerusalem Saturday and said his country supported the Palestinian claim to that part of the city, Israel Television reported. Austrian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner met with Faisal Husseini, the PLO's senior representative in Jerusalem, during a visit to inaugurate an Austrian-sponsored day clinic for Palestinians in Jerusalem. Following the meeting at the Orient House, the PLO headquarters in the city, Ms. Ferrero-Waldner said, Austria supports the Palestinian position on East Jerusalem.

## Evans holds talks in Syria

**DAMASCUS** (AP) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans met Saturday with President Hafez Al Assad for talks on the Middle East peace process and other international issues. Mr. Evans also met Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Ihara. Mr. Evans said Friday he hoped Australia could contribute to peace efforts because "a big number of Australian nationals are of Arab origin."

## Iraq restoring damaged copters

**IAQHDAD** (AFP) — Iraq has begun to repair dozens of helicopters damaged in its conflict with Iran and the 1991 Gulf War after restoring its land forces, Iraqi papers said Saturday. The son of resident Saddam Hussein, Uday, is in charge of the operation, according to the papers, which did not say how Iraq had managed to obtain spare parts. President Saddam has called on Iraqis to rely on their own means to overcome the U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed when Baghdad invaded Kuwait in 1990. Youth television late Friday showed pictures of day inspectors in charge of storing several dozen helicopters. Some were damaged in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, and others in the Gulf conflict. Uday has "given instructions to complete the work as quickly as possible," said a senior official.

## Serbs press assault as world ponders how to respond to defiance

**SARAJEVO** (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces Saturday shelled the U.N.-declared safe area of Zepa, while world leaders dithered on the right response to the growing Bosnian crisis. As U.N. chiefs met with Serbia's president in Belgrade and France and Britain bickered over how to stop the Serbs' advance, Serb forces Saturday barred aid convoys from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) from entering eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina to help refugees from the fallen enclave of Srebrenica, aid officials in Belgrade said. Four explosions rocked the centre of Zepa town Saturday afternoon as small arms skirmishes occurred around the enclave, U.N. officials said. However, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko was unable to confirm a midday Bosnian radio report that the enclave was under "an infantry and artillery attack from all directions." The Serb forces ringing Zepa have been expected to launch an attack on the enclave since they crushed another "safe area," Srebrenica earlier this week and issued an ultimatum for Zepa's defenders to lay down their arms and told U.N. peacekeepers to leave. In an effort to avert another catastrophe, the commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, Lieutenant General Rupert Smith, sent a letter to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) commander, General Ratko Mladic, demanding that he "exercise maximum restraint" and not "pursue an attack against the enclave." He warned an attack on the enclave would "lead to increased international condemnation and isolation" and reminded Mr. Mladic that his forces "would be liable to NATO air power." Earlier this week, Mr. Mladic's frontline troops shrugged off air attacks and brushed past Dutch peacekeepers into the Srebrenica enclave, another U.N. safe area, which fell in a matter of hours. The fall of Srebrenica sparked condemnation around the world but again highlighted the disunited approach of the Western democracies to the Bosnian conflict. Diplomatic tensions rose between Britain and France on Saturday following remarks made by British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in a morning radio interview. Referring to recent statements by President Jacques Chirac calling for tougher action by troop contributors to

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## PLO, Israel start drafting West Bank accord today

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiators will begin on Sunday drafting an accord on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank aiming to conclude an agreement by a July 25 target date, a PLO official said on Saturday. PLO negotiator Hassan Asfour said four committees negotiating a redeployment of Israeli troops and security arrangements in the West Bank, legal issues, Palestinian elections and a transfer of civil authorities, would meet at a hotel in the northern Israeli town of Zichron Yaakov. "We will start working on redeployment maps and drafting the accord," Mr. Asfour told Reuters. "We will do our utmost through intensified negotiations in the coming week to finalise the interim accord in order to meet the July 25 target date," he said. Israeli and PLO negotiators, under tight security, held their first session of marathon talks in Zichron Yaakov on Friday on the second stage of Palestinian self-rule launched in Gaza and Jericho last May. The interim accord, already one year behind schedule, covers an Israeli troop redeployment from Palestinian-populated areas and elections for a Palestinian council which would run most aspects of life in the West Bank and Gaza. "In Zichron Yaakov we set the agenda for the coming week's talks and we will work continuously to finalise an accord," Mr. Asfour said. PLO officials said although both sides would try to conclude an agreement by July 25, the actual drafting of the accord may extend beyond the deadline. Another senior PLO official accused Israel of letting the concerns of a few Israeli settlers in the West Bank get in the way of the agreement to extend Palestinian self-rule. Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian local government minister, said: "Israel is trying to make us sign an agreement that is designed to please the few settlers dispersed along the West Bank." "Israel's persistence on this point constitutes the principal gap that separates the two sides on security arrangements," to accompany an Israeli army redeployment away from Palestinian towns, he said at the end of the Palestinian government's

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## King demands world action in Bosnia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday urged the world community to put an end to the "heinous crimes" committed by the Serbs against Bosnian civilians and described Serbian practices as reminiscent of atrocities committed before the establishment of the United Nations. Addressing ambassadors to Jordan of the five nations which hold permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council, the King demanded United Nations and world community action to halt the "ugly massacres to which Bosnian civilians are subjected at the hands of the Serbian forces, especially in those areas that fall under the control of U.N. peacekeeping forces." The King told the ambassadors the escalation of Serbian aggression came as a direct result of the feeble world reaction to their attacks and the world's apathy towards the tragedy of the Bosnian people and the serious violations of their human rights. "These inhuman practices and the heinous massacres are being committed while the United Nations is celebrating its 50th anniversary," said the King, noting that the world organisation was established to safeguard human rights and human dignity and freedom and man's right to secure and stable life. The Serbs' practices, the King said, remind "us of the atrocities against people that used to be committed in the world before the creation of the world organisation," added King Hussein at the meeting which was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Oqsem. The King stressed the need for the United Nations and its various agencies to work towards the fulfilment of their objectives and live up to the expectations of the world community of nations. Radio Jordan said the King told French President Jacques Chirac on Friday that Jordan would pull out its troops from the U.N. peacekeeping force in former Yugoslavia if no military action was taken to stop Serb attacks against Muslim enclaves in Bosnia. "Jordan will withdraw its troops serving with the United Nations in former Yugoslavia if these troops prove unable to fulfil their duty, and if no measures are taken to put an end to this tragedy by reactivating the role of the United Nations and its troops," the radio quoted the King as saying. King Hussein also backed Mr. Chirac's "principled and courageous stand" in demanding immediate action to end Serb attacks. France said on Friday it was giving its Western allies 48 hours to decide whether or not they would join military action to halt Serb attacks. The response from Britain and the United States has been cool.

## Sudan claims Egypt starting new dispute

**KHARTOUM** (Agencies) — Sudan accused Egypt Saturday of starting a new border dispute along the Red Sea, forcing out Sudanese from an area near the northern port of Wadi Halfa. The official SUNA news agency said Egyptian authorities "have started provocations against Sudanese citizens in the Aqeen region north of (Wadi) Halfa and tried to force them to move southwards." The agency did not describe the provocations or say whether the Egyptian army was involved. Culture and Information Minister Abdul Bassit Sabdarat said: "This is a new escalation step by the Egyptian authorities and an attempt to lead a new aggression on Sudanese territory after their aggression on Halaib and their move to deprive citizens in Halaib of drinking water." Egypt and Sudan have already been involved in skirmishes over their mutual claim to the Halaib region on the Red Sea. "These Egyptian measures are directly targeting the Sudanese people who are ready to defend their land and integrity," the minister said. Earlier in the week, Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir said 100,000 troops were standing by ready to defend Halaib. But he pledged Saturday that his country would not go to war with Egypt to protect borders drawn up by its former colonialists. "We will not raise a rifle in the face of the Egyptian soldier and we will not fight for borders created by the colonisers to disintegrate the Arab Nation," he said, quoted by SUNA. Instead, Lieutenant Bashir said: "We seek to tear up those borders." He repeated that the area belonged to Sudan "as proven by international laws and conventions." But he said Khartoum was seeking a peaceful settlement "through diplomatic and political channels." Sudan's spiritual leader, Sheikh Hassan Al Tourabi, called Saturday for the border dispute with Cairo to be solved, after clashes erupted in the region earlier this month. Mr. Tourabi told the

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## Kabariti begins visit to S. Arabia

**RIYADH** (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Saturday called for Jordan and Saudi Arabia to settle their differences after five years of soured relations caused by the 1990 Gulf crisis. Mr. Kabariti, who arrived here Saturday for the first high-level meeting between the two countries for five years, attempted to draw a line under the tensions that surfaced after Riyadh accused Amman of supporting Iraq in the crisis. "The moment has come to put an end to abnormal situation imposed by abnormal events and to continue our common initiative," he said after being greeted by his Saudi counterpart prince Saud Al Faisal at Riyadh airport. Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti flew to Saudi Arabia on Saturday in the first such high-level trip since the 1990 Gulf crisis. Mr. Kabariti was received by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. It was possible that King Fahd would receive Mr. Kabariti, Reuters reported. "It is time to emerge from the effects of abnormal conditions so we may resume working together," said Mr. Kabariti on arrival in Riyadh. "It is a door-opening visit which we hope would help

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## Syria, Israel trade charges

**DAMASCUS** (Agencies) — Syria on Saturday accused Israel of hampering last week's U.S. peace mission by insisting on early warning stations along their border. A Syrian official said Israel was "proposing conflicting issues such as early warning stations, preventing any accord on the fundamental issues." U.S. envoy Dennis Ross ended a four-day shuttle between Israel and Syria and left early Friday for Washington, having failed to set a new date for talks between military experts. The official said Damascus had not sent its military experts to the U.S. capital "because we refuse to send experts to Washington for terrorism." "The evasiveness by Israel proves that they have yet to decide on whether to make peace with Syria, because in the negotiations on security measures, Israel insists on unimportant points, such as early warning stations," the official said. Syria refuses to allow the stations on its territory, considering it a violation of its sovereignty. But Israel sees them as vital to preventing an attack on its territory from the strategic Golan Heights. "Israel has to give up its security demands which are contrary to the principles of equality and equilibrium such as early warning stations and control points" on the Golan, the official daily Al Thawra wrote. For its part, Israel blamed Syria for the breakdown in talks. "There is a crisis which has been provoked by the Syrians, it is serious," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview with state radio. He added: "The Americans also consider that Damascus is entirely to blame for this crisis." "I must say I am very happy that no one can place the blame on Israel. This crisis is a Syrian creation," he said. Mr. Peres said he did not "rule out the resumption of

talks," but insisted that Syria was "raising difficulties." Mr. Peres said Syria's current demand that Israel declare its readiness to withdraw from the entire Golan before Syria agrees to resuming direct negotiations was "unacceptable." "I don't think that one side can ask the other to declare on the final line of withdrawal (from the Golan) when it is still at the starting line," Mr. Peres said. "Israel said that it accepts in principle the idea of withdrawal on the Golan Heights, but to say 'first of all accept everything that Syria demands and only afterward begin negotiations,' this is really unacceptable," he added. Mr. Peres also balked at Syria's demand for "equal security" arrangements and said that if Israel relinquishes control over the Golan Heights it expects the Syria to offer compensation for the security advantage it will acquire. "Whoever has the mountain (the Golan Heights) has the advantage," he said. "When the Syrians ask us to go down from the Golan Heights, they themselves must propose what will be the compensation from a security point of view." The U.S. State Department sees a potential for Syria and Israel to get together on security issues, spokesman Nicholas Burns said Friday. Mr. Burns said he had spoken to Mr. Ross Thursday evening after he engaged in security talks with Syria and Israel. "(Ross's) discussions combined with the recent discussions of the chiefs of staff give us the view that there is a real potential for convergence on key issues relating to security arrangements," Mr. Burns told reporters. Israeli radio stations Friday reported that Syrian negotiators "unexpectedly refused to agree to a date for talks between senior Syrian and Israeli officials."

## Left move towards centre is a possibility, politicians say

**Division surfaces in leftist camp over continued alliance with Islamists**  
By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As expectations of an imminent cabinet reshuffle pick up momentum, politicians and analysts are beginning to discuss the possibility of a new attempt by the government to win over Jordanian leftists, some of whom are growing restless with their uneasy alliance with the Islamists. Leftist leaders, particularly the communists, charge that government policies have left them with no choice but to form and stay inside their 11-party opposition camp which is dominated by the Islamic Action Front (IAF). The disgruntled leftists, however, are not saying under what conditions the left would switch alliances, especially under the current terms of Jordan's peace treaty with Israel. In explaining the nature of their relations with the Islamists and headline pan-Arabists who are opposed to peace with Israel in principle, leftists say that their alliance with these groups is dictated by the internal situation in the Kingdom as well as the government's "failure" to open up the state's institution for leftist and "democratic" parties. Many leftists say that they support peace with Israel, but are against what they describe as "unilateral and submissive deals that fall short of comprehensive peace in the region." Saying that communists have called for peace since the partition of Palestine in 1948, the leader of the Jordanian Communist Party, Yacoub Zayadeen, asked in a recent interview, "Why are we still being thrown in the lap of Islamists?" A former minister says that the "government's intolerance of constitutional prerogative" and its preoccupation with implementing the peace treaty "despite the public's opposition to the hasty pace of normalisation with Israel" has prompted the joint stance between the Islamists and leftists, who have adopted a general agenda to fight normalisation, regression in democracy and the growing problems of poverty and unemployment. Politicians say, however, that including figures from the left in any new government set-up will benefit both the image and the popularity of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's cabinet, which has come under increasing criticism for "intolerance" of the opposition. In a recent interview with the London-based Al Wasat magazine, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was quoted as saying that Jordanians are divided into three camps where peace with Israel is concerned: "A minority which opposes peace in principle, countered with another minority which supports peace enthusiastically and unreservedly, and a majority which supports rational and slow peace moves." In agreement with the analysis, the former minister says that "a substantial majority of people are against normalisation. People wanted comprehensive peace in the region as well as different terms for peace... they had a totally different perspective and did not agree with the timing of the peace accord in isolation from the other tracks." Like-minded politicians say that by splitting up the opposition by attracting the leftists, whose position is perceived by some as the closest to that of the majority of Jordanians, the government could achieve two goals: the first would be to polish its current image as "undemocratic," and the second would be to isolate the Islamists and generally weaken the opposition to the government. "The government would be doing both itself and the left a favour by co-opting the moderate leftists, especially since official moves towards implementing the peace accord with Israel are under no threat of being hindered," a centrist deputy says. "The government would be able to win over leftists if it adopts a slower pace in



## Rights group says hundreds face unfair trials and torture

CAIRO (AP) — Since 1992, Syria has tried hundreds of political activists, some who had been tortured or detained for a decade without charge, and handed down sentences of up to 15 years for non-violence offenses, a human rights group said Saturday.

The repression was reported despite encouraging signs since the 1991 Gulf war that Syria, ruled by President Hafez Al Assad since he seized power in a 1970 coup, was seeking to improve its human rights record amid Western pressure.

The government has released thousands of prisoners and eased restrictions of Jews seeking to emigrate, both gestures aimed in part at bettering Syria's relations with the West and opening the door to aid for the country's anemic economy.

But a report by the New York-based Human Rights Watch said that at the same time, the regime has been trying hundreds of activists for vague offenses that include "opposing any of the goals of the revolution."

Defendants are denied fair trials and barred from appealing the sentences, the group said.

"They're sending a strong message to Syrian citizens that peaceful political action is not going to be tolerated," said Virginia Sherry, an associate director of Human Rights Watch who spent 48 days in Syria this spring to compile the report.

"It's a population where you pay an extremely high price for daring to dissent," she said in an interview.

The trials have accompanied widespread torture to wrest confessions from suspected activists, the report said.

Prisoners told the group they were subjected to beatings and electric shocks. One activist said his fingernails were ripped off.

Some detainees said they were tortured on the "German chair," in which the victim is tied by the hands and feet to a metal chair with moving parts. The chair's backrest bends backward, extending the spine and putting pressure on the neck and limbs.

Other suspects spoke of the "chicken," a revolving wooden bar that resembles a roasting spit. The victim is strapped to the device and beaten with sticks by

## Cabinet reappoints Abbadi as mayor and names 20 other members of Amman council

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday appointed the 20 members of the Greater Amman Municipality Council who will be running Amman's municipal affairs along with their 20 colleagues elected last week in the general municipal elections.

The council will be led by the incumbent Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, according to an announcement issued following a regular Cabinet session held Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

In addition to Dr. Abbadi, the list of appointed members includes the governor of Amman, secretaries general of the ministries of municipal and rural affairs and public works, the Water Authority of Jordan, the director general of the Land and Survey Department, the director general of the Amman Education Department, the director general of the Jordan Electricity Company, the director general of the Housing and Urban Development Department, the director general of the Telecommunications Corporation, the director of the Traffic Department, in addition to Nadeem Muasher, Mohammad Al Jamal, Abdul Majeed Asfour, Hani Al Haj Hassan, Huda Budeir, Mahmoud Taber, Mohammad Abu Hassan, Haidar Murad and Mohammad Huweiti.

At the meeting, Sharif Zeid voiced satisfaction over the outcome of the municipal elections and thanked the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and all government departments which contributed to the success of the elections.

In its meeting, the cabinet approved an amendment to the income tax law which will be referred to the upper and lower house of parliament for endorsement.

It also decided to appoint Abdul Fattah Salah as secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs effective July 19.

In addition, the Cabinet decided to authorise the Kingdom's Ambassador in Beirut to exchange the signed documents of a transport agreement between Jordan and Lebanon and to set up a Jordanian delegation which will travel for Brussels to hold talks with the European union on means of achieving partnership deals between EU and Mediterranean countries.

The Council also decided to form a specialised delegation to hold talks with Egyptian officials on the prospect of purchasing natural gas from Egypt.

It also decided to set up a delegation to participate in the meetings of a Jordanian-Iraqi agricultural committee which will convene July 18 and approved Jordan's joining a U.N. agreement on conventional weapons.

## Jenin university signs accord of affiliation with U.S. university

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Palestinian university in the West Bank town of Jenin has signed a letter of intent of affiliation with an American university, the president of the Jenin university said Saturday.

It is the first such accord to be signed after Palestinian self-rule began in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994 and reflected increased confidence that the peace process between the Palestinians and Israel would eventually lead to the realisation of Palestinian independence.

Education was one of the key sectors which suffered severely under the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Israel occupied the territories in the 1967 war.

After the breakthrough interim self-rule accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in September 1993, many groups have been formed to set up schools and higher education facilities in the West Bank, but the letter of intent signed last week was the first to formally set up ties between a West Bank institution and an American university.

The Arab American University of Jenin (AAU) and the California State University Stanis-



Maher Irsheid

laus (CSUS) signed the documents on Thursday, said AAU President Maher Irsheid.

Mr. Irsheid said that the AAU had already secured approval from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to operate as a private university in Jenin.

Under the letter of intent, AAU will connect itself with Internet, the international computer network, development courses and programmes compatible with the CSUS, establish an American language and cultural programme to help students obtain proficiency in English, provide electronic access to students to resources, and abide by all university requirements of the CSUS.

In return, the CSUS will provide E-mail access to AAU students to CSUS facilities, offer

advice in the establishment of administrative, educational and physical facilities, including courses and programmes leading to either certificates or degrees, issue certificates or degrees for work completed at AAU, offer liaison facilities for AAU to set up relations with American academy disciplines beyond CSUS, coordinate on-site short courses and special courses, and facilitate the establishment of a university in all aspects, including faculty and staff development.

"California State University Stanislaus is interested in full affiliation with the Arab American University in Jenin and will co-issue certificates and bachelors or masters degrees on behalf of the Arab American University in Jenin," says the letter of intent.

"All parties have agreed that the standards and quality of California State University Stanislaus must be maintained," it says.

The document was signed by Mr. Irsheid, a former member of the Jordanian Parliament, and Thomas O'Neill, director of the California State University Stanislaus.

Mr. Irsheid said he expected the AAU to be operational by October 1996 and that the initial cost of the project was around \$20 million.

## Polisario says it rejoining U.N. process

MADRID (AP) — A faltering U.N. operation to hold a referendum on the future of Western Sahara appeared back on track Friday as the Polisario Front said it would rejoin Morocco in helping to identify voters for the poll.

The Polisario Front, which seeks independence for the former Spanish colony, said the good offices of certain U.N. Security Council members had led it to reverse its June 23 decision to withdraw from the identification process.

The voter identification halted one day after a Moroccan military tribunal sentenced eight Saharans to long prison terms for demonstrating in the Moroccan-controlled territory in support of Polisario and independence.

The initiatives by unnamed countries "aimed at making Morocco immediately reconsider its arbitrary decisions" have restored the group's faith in the process, according to a statement from Polisario's headquarters in Tindouf, Algeria, that was released by its Madrid office.

King Hassan II announced July 9 he was cutting the prison terms from 15 to 20 years to one year. The United States and other countries sent representatives to the trial. Several countries and the U.N. reportedly expressed dismay over the outcome.

The referendum, originally scheduled for 1992, has been postponed repeatedly because of disagreements over who is entitled to vote on whether Western Sahara becomes independent or a part of Morocco.

Polisario's statement charged that Morocco is trying to pack the voter list with 100,000 "settlers" from Morocco. The U.N. last August began drawing up the list of voters who will decide the future of the Italy-sized territory.

Some 230,000 people have applied to be included in the list, but the U.N. mission has interviewed less than a quarter of them to determine if they qualify.

The U.N. Security Council last month extended the mandate of its 330-member Western Sahara mission until Sept. 30 and called for a referendum in early 1996, but did not set a date.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Russian deputy foreign minister in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Russia is interested in reactivating Lebanese-Israeli peace talks, Russian deputy foreign minister Victor Possovalyuk said on Saturday. "We are interested in the reactivation of peace negotiations and in achieving progress on all tracks, especially on the Lebanese-Israeli track," Mr. Possovalyuk told reporters after meeting Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials in Beirut. "Russia has taken several steps to push things towards this direction containing the Israeli party and the U.S. sponsor," he added. He did not give details. Mr. Possovalyuk, who arrived in Beirut on Saturday, met President Elias Hrawi and other Lebanese officials and was expected to leave for Syria later in the day.

### 3 die, 200 poisoned from chlorine in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Three people were killed and 200 others were poisoned after inhaling chlorine gas in northern Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported Saturday. Authorities in the coastal town of Astara, on the Caspian Sea bordering Azerbaijan, told IRNA the gas leaked Friday from a Russian-imported tank. The tanks were stockpiled in the courtyard of the town's water and department and were destined for Tehran's water and sewerage department. Among the victims were many summer vacationers camping in a part next to the customs department, including several Azerbaijani nationals who were poisoned. The authorities have launched an investigation, although a local official told IRNA that the accident may have occurred because the tanks did not meet safety standards. Chlorine is a toxic substance used for cleaning and water purification, and in concentrated form can be deadly.

### Iran finds remains of 3,000 soldiers

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has found the remains of 3,000 of its soldiers and volunteer militiamen killed during the 1980-1988 war against Iraq, the official news agency IRNA reported Saturday. A mass funeral is to be held for 2,695 of the fighters after the weekly prayers at Tehran University on Friday and the rest would be buried in several other provinces on Wednesday, it said citing an Iranian official. It said the remains had been found recently but did not elaborate further. The head of a committee in charge of searching for soldiers missing in action (MIAs), Mir Feisal Bagherzadeh, also said hundreds of mines and other explosives planted during the conflict had been discovered and defused during search operations for the victims. The remains of a total of 20,000 soldiers and militiamen have been discovered since the end of the war in August 1988, he said. Mr. Bagherzadeh added three members of his committee had been killed during the latest operations, which also discovered the remains of several Iraqi soldiers killed on the Iranian soil. He said, however, that the bodies of Iraqi soldiers had not been recovered for "hygienic considerations," but that "further actions" could be taken if Iraq decided to cooperate.

### Egyptair to sign for 3 Airbus 340-200s

CAIRO (R) — Egyptair, the Egyptian government airline, will sign to buy three Airbus 340-200s next Wednesday, an official of Airbus Industrie said on Saturday. Airbus Industrie will deliver the first two in October or November 1996 and the third probably in June 1997, said the official. "The price is confidential," he added. The three aircraft are expected to cost a total of about \$280 million. Under the agreement, Airbus Industrie will undertake to find someone to buy three old Airbus 300-B4s which Egyptair wants to dispose of, the official said. Egypt is thinking of raising some of the money by issuing bonds on the Cairo market. Egyptair also plans to buy three Boeing 777s.

### Cyprus' chief pathologist fired on TV

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus' chief pathologist was fired after insulting the island's health minister in front of a rolling television camera in a hospital car park. "It is through the Health Ministry is the private business of every small-town lawyer who becomes a minister from one minute to the next," the British-trained Marios Matsakis said. "He is the most incompetent minister I have seen for a long time." Health Minister Manolis Christofides' voice was shaking with rage as he sacked Mr. Matsakis on Friday for "unprofessional behaviour," after refusing to perform a post mortem with a female colleague on the body of a woman found murdered on Friday. "The state of Cyprus can live without Matsakis," Mr. Christofides told the private Sigma TV station crew who filmed the incident. "I'm firing him...you are fired Mr. Matsakis."

### 3 Lebanese held in Kiev for \$3m ransom

NICOSIA (AFP) — Three Lebanese businessmen have been kidnapped in Ukraine and are being held for a three million dollar ransom, Cypriot police said Saturday after calling in Interpol. Mustafa Ali Bioglu, a Lebanese businessman who holds a Cypriot passport, told police Friday that his son Salim, brother Bassam and an employee Abdul Al Osman were seized during a business trip to Kiev. Mr. Bioglu said he had spoken to his son by phone and to one of the kidnappers who told him to deposit the three million dollars in a bank account in Washington. The number was faxed to his offices in Limassol, in the south of the Mediterranean island. His son and Osman are both Lebanese but resident in Cyprus, while his brother Bassam holds a Cypriot passport. Police said that Bioglu suspected a former associate who he has accused of trying to blackmail him.

## Islamists' defeat in municipal polls is significant

By Kamran Rawashdeh Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Is the Jordanian Islamists' loss of four main areas of Amman in the recent municipal elections a sign of the group's popular retreat in the capital or does the failure have other indications?

We can safely say that the Islamists' main loss was in Basman district, which has always been considered their most important stronghold at the political and grassroots levels.

This stronghold came to light in the parliamentary elections of 1989 and 1993

when three of the Islamist candidates were elected. It is the same district where Islamist candidate Mousa Bantash assumes the leadership of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party.

The Islamists' defeat in Basman, Tareq, Marka and Naser was a direct result of tribal competition but they achieved success in Ras Al Ain, Bader and Khreibet Al Souq, where their rivals were weaker at the tribal and grassroots levels.

In the Basman district, tribal candidate Khalaf Al Baraish received 961 votes that went

to Mousa Bantash and in Marka district Mohammad Irteimeh received 1,826 votes while Islamist Marwan Al Malhi got only 588 votes.

In Tareq district, Khalil Habarnah received 1,121 votes out of 4,660 votes while Islamist Hatem Al Bishtawi got 408 votes.

In Al Naser district, Saleh Hamlan received 1,541 votes while Islamist Mohammad Banna received 1,303 votes, and in Bader district Mousa Wahsh, an Islamist, received 1,739 votes.

In the Khreibet Al Souq, Saleh Ghasawi, the Islamist candidate, got 1,226 votes out of a total of 4,488 votes and Islamist candidate in Ras Al Ain, Ayoub Abdul Karim, received 1,428 votes out of 6,669 votes.

The total number of votes received by the seven Islamist candidates was 7,611 in areas where 32,889 voters were eligible to cast ballots.

The question that remains here is: Do these figures indicate a retreat of the Islamist influence in the Amman region and subsequently indicate a retreat in the Ammanites' support for the Islamists?

The municipal elections could be a real indication of the actual situation, especially as the Islamists exerted all their efforts and mobilised all their forces to support their candidates.

Generally speaking, the overall success in the elections was for the tribal and independent candidates. We have to take into account of the fact that leftists who ran for the Wadi Seer and Ras Al Ain seats as well as nationalists who fielded candidates in Wadi Nasser also lost to tribal candidates.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	The Flintstones
14:30	The Mighty Jungle
15:00	Pugawall Summer
15:30	Movie Magic
16:00	Families
16:30	Children's programmes
19:00	News in French
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Tomorrow's World
20:00	Nurses
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Starbridge
22:30	Counterside
23:00	The Hidden Room
23:59	Grace Under Fire

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Nidal Al'ad	751672
Dr. Khalil Abu Maryoub	779797
Dr. Jamal Marqas	776149
Dr. Shaiwa Abu Zayid	737962
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	626672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najmouh pharmacy	626672
Najib pharmacy	647632
IRBID:	
Dr. Muhammad Al Hila	279773
Alquds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Zayid J'atim	(-)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Civil Defence Emergency	
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdulla Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	774111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53208
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53209
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann	64428116
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann	64244112
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahbas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	66417114
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mashar Hospital	66722709
The Islamic, Abdali	66412757
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641046
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7710112
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	77511126
Army, Marka	89161115
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050
Amal Hospital	607155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hitma Modern Hospital	(09)990990
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	661111
QADIA:	
Qadiah Govt. Hospital	(05)347100
Qadiah National Hospital	(05)347100
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by	

21:35	Cairo (MS)
19:30	Jeddah (add) (BA)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
22:20	London, Beirut (SA)
22:20	Istanbul (TK)
22:20	Athens (OA)
01:10	Amsterdam (KL)
02:20	London (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	
Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Bangkok (RJ)
05:45	Aqaba (RJ)
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
11:20	Frankfurt (RJ)
11:20	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:55	Vicenza (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
21:25	Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
21:25	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
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20:30	Vicenza, Rome (RJ)
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00:30	Aqaba (RJ)
01:20	Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:30	Rome (AZ)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
13:20	Sunair (IV)
14:30	Beirut (ME)
16:15	Beirut (ME)
22:25	Moscow (SU)
01:05	Beirut, London (BA)
02:35	Amsterdam (KL)
04:00	Athens (OA)
HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Amman	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.	
Apple	700 / 500
Apricot	600 / 400
Banana	600 / 400
Banana (Mukammal)	600
Cabbage	100 / 30
Carrot	200 / 120
Cauliflower	200 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	220 / 180
Eggplant	160 / 80
Garlic	600 / 400
Grapes	500 / 300
Lemon	400 / 300
Marrow (large)	120 / 80
Marrow (small)	220 / 180
Mulakhia	120 / 80
Onion (dry)	750 / 600
Orange	170 / 100
Peaches	250 / 200
Pepper (hot)	250 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 120
Potato	240 / 200
String Beans	270 / 180
Sweet Melon	270 / 180
Tomato	90 / 50
Water Melon	90 / 50



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PRICES

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600 400

500 400

400 400

300 400

200 400

100 400

50 400

20 400

10 400

5 400

2 400

1 400

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Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday presents diplomas to graduating students of the University of Applied Sciences

## Queen Noor distributes awards to ASU graduates

Amman (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday distributed diplomas to 196 graduates from the Applied Sciences University (ASU). Nineteen honour students were presented with awards.

In his speech, Acting President of ASU Bashir Khadra said that the ASU, which is owned by the International Arab Company for Education and Development, was conceived during the conferences of Jordanian expatriates.

Queen Noor commended ASU on its diverse educational curriculum and its varied student body, which

comprises 29 nationalities, including students from Jordan and other countries of the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North and South America.

ASU was founded in 1991 by Saif Wadi Ramahi. Its educational curriculum includes architecture, pharmacology, basic sciences, medical sciences, economics, finance, marketing, insurance, hotel management, political science, diplomatic studies, hospital and health administration, law, graphic and interior design, art, psychology, applied social science and literature. Its 365-dunum campus

features the largest athletic centre in the Middle East, which was built to Olympic specifications and can accommodate 1,000 spectators.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah, was received by President of the Board of Directors of the International Arab Company for Education and Development Haj. Abdullah Abu Khadijeh, President of the ASU Board of Trustees Mohammad Abdul Hadi, the members of ASU Board of Trustees and the deans of ASU.

## Preparatory conference to focus on peace, development

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day preparatory conference organized by the U.N. Human Rights Foundation (NHRF) and the International Commission on Peace and Food (ICPF) began Sunday at the Philadelphia Hotel.

Her Majesty Queen Noor is a member of the ICFF, which is an independent, non-political, non-profit organisation of political leaders, heads of international agencies, scientists and other professionals from 15 nations. It was founded in 1989 to redirect resources from the armaments race into programmes to promote peace, democracy, food security and employment.

The preparatory conference will focus on laying the groundwork for the ICFF's upcoming conference on "Human Security in the Middle East," which will be held in Amman.

"Human Security in the Middle East" is a project based on the findings of ICFF's 1994 report, "Human Opportunities: Agenda for Peace and Equitable Development," which was presented by Queen Noor to the U.N. Secretary General last December.

The report, which summarises the results of ICFF's five year international research programme, focuses on the linkages between peace, democratisation, employment, food, security, transition in Eastern Europe, human development and the environment.

It presents practical strategies to resolve these issues and calls for bold steps to radically accelerate international development, maximising the role of the individual as the most valuable resource for development.

The project, in which Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt are participating, comprises a research phase whose findings and recommendations will be presented and discussed in the upcoming conference.

The research is being carried out by five working groups composed of an ICFF and a Jordanian coordinator, one member from the participating countries as well as regional and international experts.

The five working groups are studying regional economic cooperation, employment generation, food security, human resource development, peace and alternative use of the military.

The closing session of the meeting will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor on Tuesday July 18, 1995.

## Court rules against Ansari reinstatement to Press Association

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Court of Justice Saturday ruled against a bid by Nabil Ansari, a former member of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to be reinstated as JPA member after the association board barred him from membership due to reports of rule violation within the association.

A court statement said that Mr. Ansari had opened an advertising agency in his own name while under JPA law an association member should be fully employed as a journalist and cannot undertake any other occupation. The association board took the right and legal decision to cancel his name from the list of journalists.

The court statement said. Under JPA law article 46 states clearly that no JPA member can undertake any business or commercial job or to act as a representative of commercial or industrial companies.

The statement also said that article 12 of the same law stipulates that any JPA member will have her or his membership cancelled by the association board if it is proved they had violated any of the rules.

Commenting on the court's ruling, JPA President Suleiman Qudah said that the court has reaffirmed the decision taken by the JPA board after a thorough study of Mr. Ansari's case.

## Princess Sumaya graduates technology college students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan Saturday attended the graduation of the first batch of students from the Princess Sumaya University College for Technology and distributed certificates to the 72 graduates.

The graduates obtained a bachelor degree in computer science following a four-year course of study.

In an address to the graduates, the Princess said that the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) had established the college in response to the labour market's needs of graduates to handle computers and electronic engineering work.

In graduating the students, the Princess said that the

college board of trustees had recently decided to send a group of students to conduct their postgraduate studies abroad on a scholarship basis.

The princess congratulated the RSS on its efforts to serve the Jordanian public and urged the graduates to pursue all efforts to service their country.

Dr. Mohammad Qarioti, dean of the college, outlined the programmes offered at the college noting that the first courses at the college opened in the 1991-92 academic year and that programmes included computer science, economics, accountancy, banking, science, marketing and data management.

## Government studying floating of vegetable prices

By Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is currently studying the possibility of ending its policy of determining the prices of fruits and vegetables, leaving the market forces free to decide on prices.

"The government departments concerned with the fruit and vegetable markets are currently studying the matter," said Head of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Dr. Salem Lawzi.

Dr. Lawzi declined to predict when a decision would be made, but warned that according to a preliminary study carried by the AMO, the only party that will benefit from ending the fixing of prices are the traders.

Small farmers and consumers would be the losers, he stated.

Some consumers remember the time when the government decided to end pricing nine years ago.

"Prices soared and the government withdrew its decision. Traders monopolised the market and forced their own prices on the consumers," said Muna Musa, 49, a housewife.

She added that she would ask all consumers to boycott the fruit and vegetable market if the government went along with that decision.

Another consumer suggested the government should not withdraw from the entire pricing process, but should at least supervise the process.

"For the time being products are abundant in the market, so prices might not increase. But once the market in the Gulf opens up again to our products, we

will starve to death," said Jamal Jaded, a consumer.

Head of the Consumer Protection Society (CPS) Mohammad Obaidat said that 80 per cent of the Jordanian population has low purchasing power. If that decision is taken it will destroy the middle and poor classes in the country, he said.

A gradual floatation of the prices of products may be needed, Dr. Obaidat added, but starting with the less essential products. The five basic vegetables used in Jordanian diet, namely, tomatoes, potatoes, garlic and onions, should not be part of such an experiment, he said. Vegetable and fruit traders, on the other hand, welcomed the news of a possible price floatation.

Abu Hassan, owner of Ameen grocery store in Jabal Hussein said that fixed prices had always limited his options, because he could not buy the quality he needed.

Big farm operators say that their products are affected only by demand and supply not by fixed prices. Quality produce will be more readily available at higher prices. In this scenario, bad produce will entirely disappear since traders are no longer bound by prices, said Abdullah Zaben, a farmer.

"The fixed prices are there to help the trader against the low power purchasing consumer who buys low quality products and pays according to the fixed prices," Mr. Zaben added.

"We do not mind floating the prices as long as the government does not import products from neighbouring countries," said a prominent farmer who asked not to be named.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Film entitled "The Horse Soldiers" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

★ Exhibition in honour of Palestinian Intifada victims and detainees at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

★ Works by Khedir Shukraji at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Paintings by Muhammad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhels.

★ Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Fusan.

## Bread subsidy totals JD 60 million in '95, government says

AMMAN (Petra) — In a bid to ensure bread remains available to Jordanian citizens at reasonable prices, the Ministry of Supply is subsidising flour prices this year by JD 60 million, up from JD 54 million last year, according to a ministry statement Saturday.

Issued in observance of Arab Loaf Day, held each year to highlight the importance of bread-baking across the nation, the statement said that bread will continue to be subsidised because it benefits low and limited income groups.

At the same time and in order to ensure good quality bread for consumers, the ministry is sending out inspection teams on regular visits to various bakeries to make sure that safe processes are being followed in the baking of bread, noted the statement.

The Ministry of Supply is

distributing 430,000 tonnes of flour to bakeries in Jordan every year though consumption in Jordan is estimated at 300,000 tonnes, the statement added.

The statement said bakeries throughout the Kingdom adhere closely to the specifications concerning the baking of bread and that the quality of Jordanian bread is considered one of the best in the Arab region.

The statement noted that there were noticeable increases in the sale of flour from 12,613 tonnes in the first five months of last year to 13,377 tonnes in the same period this year.

In reference to the shortage in the amount of flour in Jordan as reported earlier by the local press, the statement said that new measures are being followed to control the sale and distribution of flour after it was revealed that flour was

being illegally sold abroad.

The statement said that control measures and inspections are making a difference and that the ministry has recently floated a tender for the purchase of an additional 20,000 tonnes in the next few weeks to ensure more quantities for the market.

According to Abdul Ilah Hamawi, president of the General Union of Bakeries in Jordan, there was urgent need for the continued subsidy of flour since it is a basic food commodity.

Mr. Hamawi denied reports in the press that chemical substances were being used in the process of baking bread.

Mr. Hamawi made note of the fact that Jordan was represented at the first international conference on bread which was held in Kansas University in the United States.

## 'Election of women indicates change in social attitudes'

By Cosima Hadidi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Of the ten women who won seats in the recent municipal council elections, six were members of the Women Committees in their governorates, a clear indication of the success of these committees in creating a political and decision-making presence for women, said Ms. Hiam Kalimat, Director of the General Secretariat of the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW).

While the JNCW is a semi-governmental policy forum on women's issues, the Women Committees in the Governorates are non-governmental executive bodies of several plans of action for women including the National Strategy for Women in Jordan.

Upon an initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, and based upon this strategy, 99 women were appointed to the municipal councils of various governorates in 1994.

"There were three reasons for this move," said Ms. Kalimat. "To remove the psychological barriers that prevented women from running for elections, to allow communities and local councils to accept the idea of women serving on councils, and to allow women to get in touch with the issues that are important in their communities."

She added that women participated in all council planning and decision-making activities. Several of them prepared the 1995 budgets of their communities, and for the first time, environmental issues were put on the agenda of many councils.

During this year, JNCW

identified women who were interested in running for elections themselves or supporting other women, and held intensive workshops for them on democracy, planning, decentralisation and communication. These workshops were held in the North, South and in central Jordan.

A one-day seminar was also held for the candidates during which they met with experts on campaign management; a parliamentarian was also present who shared his experiences in dealing with different constituencies. The candidates were also given advice on how to create a campaign programme and how to deal with any obstacles they may face. JNCW also helped with some of the campaign costs and transportation.

However, the real effort came from women around the Kingdom, especially the women committees which include 450 members in the main committees and 8,000 members in the branches that exist in almost every settlement and village in the Kingdom.

"The women in the committees worked very hard in helping female candidates," said Rand Hindawi, co-ordinator of the Women Committees in the Governorates. "They divided themselves into working groups, and handled all aspects of the campaign from calling people and the distribution of material up to making their homes or offices campaign headquarters and offering their private cars and phones for the campaign."

This consolidated effort led to a very positive outcome, which Ms. Kalimat believes is only the beginning.

"Women and men's attitudes have changed with the appointment of the 99 female council members last year. In the elections, women have shown that they can overcome all obstacles and reach high positions of decision-making," she said. "We have trusted their abilities to succeed, and next time I am sure that at least one-third of council members will be women."

The women council members who are also members of Women Committees include Iman Futeimat, mayor of Khirbet Wahadne, Ajloun Governorate; Najah Abu Hazeem, Balqa Governorate; Amneh Bayaydeh, Karak Governorate; Ibtisam Ashoush, Karak Governorate; Fidda Hadidi, Balqa Governorate; and Aisha Abu salem, Irbid Governorate.

However, the Women Committees also supported women candidates who were not members of women's committees.

Ms. Kalimat said that the success of women in these elections, the first time for women in Jordanian history, is in large part a result of the initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who not only initiated the JNCW, but was also instrumental in the creation of the National Strategy for Jordanian Women and Women's Committees.

Ms. Hindawi will be giving a presentation at the NGO Forum of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September on the Jordanian experience with female municipal council members, which can serve as a model to be replicated by other countries in the region.

## Sudan levels new charge at Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanese daily Al Nahar that the two countries "should open their borders rather than fight over an outline that the colonisers of Sudan drew up themselves."

In an attempt to strengthen its claim to Halaib, Egypt announced last week plans to set up a radio station to keep residents in touch with "the motherland" and the Egyptian government said it would improve services in the area.

Gen. Bashir reiterated Sudan's right to Halaib in a mass rally in Port Sudan on Thursday, saying it was "100 per cent" Sudanese and Khartoum would not relinquish one bit of it.

Sudan has also accused Egypt of cutting off the water and medical supplies to the area 14 days ago but Egypt has declined comment on all these accusations.

The area, which may contain oil, has always been a sore point in Egyptian-Sudanese relations, which reached a historic low after Cairo accused Sudan of plotting the attack on Mr. Mubarak and of training militants fighting to topple him.

Sudan has denied all accusations and warned Egypt not to blame Khartoum for its own problems

with Islamic militancy. A week after the attack, Egypt's militant Gamaa Al Islamiya claimed responsibility for the attack.

Egypt has, however, continued to attack the Sudanese government and its spiritual mentor, Islamist leader Hassan Al Tourabi, but has also ruled out military action.

After three weeks of verbal warfare, Egyptian information Minister Safwat Al Sherif was quoted in government newspapers on Saturday as saying Gen. Bashir's government was unfit to rule and had lost its eligibility.

He painted a dismal picture of conditions south of the Egyptian border, blaming it on Gen. Bashir, who overthrew Sudan's democratically elected president in a 1989 military coup.

"The result has been the complete collapse of the Sudanese economy, the collapse of the infrastructure and the collapse of the components of agriculture and industry," Mr. Sherif said.

Mr. Sherif also said the Sudanese government had brought up the Halaib dispute "to disguise the collapse of the system."

Two days ago Sudan's Foreign Ministry protested to the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum about what it de-

scribed as Egyptian provocations against the staff of its diplomatic mission in Cairo.

The ministry complained that Egyptian security forces had occupied a room at the residence of the ambassador, deliberately rammed cars belonging to Sudanese diplomats and insulted and harassed them and their families.

Mr. Mubarak, meanwhile ruled out outside mediation in the crisis.

"There are two nations that need no mediation because they are joined by one blood and one body. Any dispute will be solved through bilateral means. We will arrive at a solution," Mr. Mubarak said at a press conference in Alexandria.

In Doha, Qatar, Sudan's foreign minister said that his government recently received a U.S. envoy, apparently for talks on removing Sudan from the State Department's list of terrorist states.

Ali Osman Taha also said Sudan wants the International Court of Justice to arbitrate its border row with Egypt.

"Sudan seeks to extend bridges of understanding with all parties, especially America because of its political weight in the world," Mr. Taha told a news conference at the end of the three-day visit to Qatar.



Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat Saturday addresses the opening session of a symposium on vocational training (Petra photo)

ranging from lack of sufficient equipment at the workshops to training instructors.

Dr. Jaradat said that the supervision of vocational training courses is still at its initial stage and that it all depends on the skills of instructors working in close cooperation with the school administration and ministry supervisors.

Meanwhile, the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Saturday opened a two-day workshop aimed at raising the standard and efficiency of instructors at VTC centres.

Dr. Ali Nasrallah, VTC director general, said that VTC centres had provided training to 99,000 people over the past 15 years of its life and that these centres had been assisted by more than 4,000 factories and other businesses which offered on-the-job training to VTC students.

The participants will review working papers dealing with field training, developing vocational training schemes; encouraging students to enter the vocational field, vocational training in remote regions and the management of training programmes.

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## Aide: Yeltsin is not in danger

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin, acting to counter intense media speculation over the health of President Boris Yeltsin, said Saturday that his condition in hospital where he is recovering from a heart problem was not dangerous.

"The condition (of health) of the Russian president is not dangerous," aide Georgy Satarov was quoted by Interfax News Agency as saying. In a separate announcement, Mr. Yeltsin's press secretary said the 64-year-old Russian leader was continuing to work on official papers in his hospital room.

"The president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, following a course of treatment in the central clinic-hospital, is continuing to work," the statement said. His work Saturday included sending a series of documents for ratification to the State Duma (lower house), among them a friendship treaty with Portugal and a deal with Georgia on the status of Russian border guards in the former Soviet republic.

Speculation about Mr. Yeltsin's health intensified Friday after it was abruptly announced he was staying in hospital next week and calling off a trip to Norway planned from July 19.

"We don't have to dramatize things around the postponement of the visit of the president to Norway," Mr. Satarov said in his comments to Interfax.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose health had allegedly been drinking have been the source of conjecture for the past two and

half years, was taken to hospital with heart pains on July 11 and doctors diagnosed him as suffering from a blood-supply problem.

Despite early assurances by the Kremlin that he was recovering, he has not been seen in public since July 11. No television crews have been allowed to film him in hospital.

In a clear move aimed at silencing media speculation that his life could be in danger, ITAR-TASS news agency released a photograph of him late Friday, showing him sitting at a desk in a short-sleeved sports shirt with four telephone numbers nearby.

Mr. Yeltsin's top aide Viktor Ilyushin was quoted by TASS Friday as saying the strain of office was taking its toll.

He mentioned specifically the Chechnya conflict, the Budennovsk hostage seizure in June and clashes with the hostile Duma where Communists tried to launch impeachment moves.

But Mr. Ilyushin said that while Mr. Yeltsin was "on the mend", his doctors had "firmly demanded" that he stay in hospital. He has cancelled all engagements until July 24.

Mr. Yeltsin, president of the vast country of 150 million people since 1991, faces re-election in June 1996, though he might now choose not to run again.

His bout of ill health comes at an awkward moment for the pro-Yeltsin camp with Russia — beset by economic problems, a bitter conflict in Chechnya and political intrigue — preparing for a crucial

parliamentary election on Dec. 17.

Mr. Yeltsin, who fixed the election date Friday in a bedside decree, is eager to see a Duma returned that is much less hostile to his policies than the current one which bristles with Communist, ultranationalist and Agrarian opponents.

Opposition party faction leaders began girding themselves for the campaign within minutes of the date being fixed.

Ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Grigory Yavlinsky, head of the liberal Yabloko Faction, and Mikhail Lapshin, who leads the Agrarian Party faction, were among leading politicians who announced they would work on their pre-election strategy throughout the summer.

Meanwhile, Russia's first lady made a rare public appearance Friday and launched a sharp attack on the press, saying some journalists had acted like sadists in the way they had covered President Yeltsin's health problems.

Naina Yeltsin, speaking to journalists during a visit to a children's psychiatric hospital, complained of "cock-and-bull stories" written about the president.

"If he has flu, they say he cannot work, if he stumbles, they say he cannot work," she declared.

"I cannot call it anything other than simple verbal sadism," the first lady, who was dressed in a black and white checked suit, said.

Mrs. Yeltsin said she had visited the president and he was "fine". "I arrived first thing and they had put him to work at a table signing documents," she said.

The first lady, who almost never speaks to the press, made a wide-ranging critique of the Russian press, complaining particularly about an article in the controversial daily Moskovskiy Komsomlets Thursday.

The front-page report by Natalya Timakova bore the headline "The president is more alive than...," a play on a Russian phrase meaning "he is more dead than alive."

The report said it was "completely incomprehensible" that Mr. Yeltsin's schedule had not been changed. "Such illnesses cannot be cured in a week," it said.

"I read the article and thought 'how could a woman write such words? How would she feel if someone in her family was sick and people were saying things like that?'" Mrs. Yeltsin said. She said she did not like talking to the press. "They tell such cock-and-bull stories it is hard to believe."

She stressed how hard Mr. Yeltsin's job was, saying he had not had a holiday for four years.

"He is a human being, so why can't people treat him like one? Suddenly, as president, apparently he has to become a metal robot," she said.

"I don't envy the person who takes the president's seat. It is a hard life," she said.



Commuters stand before displays at a subway station showing members of the Aum Supreme Truth cult wanted for the nerve-gas attack that killed 11 people and injured 5,000 others on the Tokyo subway (AFP photo)

## Japan arrests 21 more cult members

TOKYO (R) — Japanese police resumed raids Saturday on a doomsday cult linked to Tokyo's poison-gas attacks and arrested 21 sect members alleged to be involved in the illegal manufacture of Soviet-type automatic rifles.

In a new sign of the lethal arsenal the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) was building up in its alleged plans to topple the government, police said the arrested sect members planned to produce more than 1,000 automatic rifles.

The rifles were modelled on the famed Soviet AK-74, designs of the weapon used in its manufacture in the former Soviet Union were the basis for the weapons production.

Over the past two months, police have arrested Aum leader Shoko Asahara and dozens of his followers for involvement in the March 20 sarin nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway system that killed 11 people and injured thousands.

A police spokesman said the latest raids, which started shortly after dawn, were concentrated on Aum's headquarters in the village of Kamikuishiki near Mount Fuji, southwest of Tokyo.

Police found several fully-functional rifles and thousands of parts and hundreds of bullets in two arm factories at the compound.

Investigators believe the weapons programme was controlled by Aum science chief Hideo Murai, who was stabbed to death outside the

sect's Tokyo office earlier this year by an ultranationalist.

They said the weapons programme started 18 months ago with the purchase of rifle drawings and specialised machinery needed to make parts for the weapon.

Police said the cult spent nearly \$10 million in buying specialised computer-run machinery needed to make high-class weapons.

They said judging from the gun parts found, the weapons programme was in its final stages before mass production began.

Police have said the sect planned to bring down the Japanese government with a campaign of terror that would leave it in control of the country.

## U.S. heat wave death toll hits 31

NEW YORK (AP) — An oppressive heat wave blamed for 31 deaths in the Midwest suffocated the east, sending people to penguin exhibits and tanning salons in search of relief.

Many people died in homes without air conditioning. A 68-year-old man who had just bought a fan and refused offers to move was found dead in his Kahoka, Missouri, house.

"It was 115 degrees (45 degrees Celsius) in there," said Clark County, Missouri, coroner Edwin Wilson. "You would walk into that house and then walk outside, and it was like being in air conditioning."

The National Weather Service blamed the extreme heat for a high pressure system that was slowly moving east from the western great plains. Forecasters said the heat wave would last through the weekend.

"All you want to do is take your clothes off," said Melissa Dougherty, a 33-year-old New York marketing researcher as she walked to work in black stockings and an olive green suit and the temperature in the mid-90s (35 degrees Celsius).

Record highs included 102 (39 C) in Green Bay, Wisconsin, 100 F (38 C) in Boston and 96 F (35 C) in Portland, Maine.

New York City hit its hottest day of the year at 98 degrees F.

Temperatures soared to 100 F (38 C) at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, equalling the previous record for the date, set in 1988.

Residents of Chattanooga, Tennessee, opened fire hydrants to help youngsters cool off and the Tennessee Valley Authority churned out electricity at a record pace for a third consecutive day as people kept their air conditioners revving.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton gave a speech in the sunny courtyard of CIA Headquarters, and noted that some in the crowd had sought refuge in the shade.

"I can't help thinking here at the Central Intelligence Agency that if we were giving intelligence awards today, they would go to the people back there under the trees," Mr. Clinton said.

Sixteen of 53 train cars derailed in Athens, Ohio, about 70 miles (112 kilometres) southeast of Columbus, because temperatures in the 90s Fahrenheit (30s Celsius) caused the track to shift 14 inches (35.5 cms).

Several hundred residents were evacuated briefly because one of the cars leaked a small amount of dimethylformamide, a combustible solvent.

vent, said Conrail spokeswoman Christine Wagner.

The simmering weather claimed seven lives Friday in Missouri, where four people died earlier in the week, and throughout the Midwest, numerous other people sought treatment from the oppressive combination of heat and humidity.

The weather was the prime suspect in seven deaths in the Milwaukee area and four more: Chicagoans died Friday, bringing the toll there to six.

Kentucky and Iowa authorities each reported two heat-related deaths while officials in Texas, Nebraska and Indiana each reported one.

Two of Chicago's victims were 3-year-old boys accidentally locked in a van in 100-degree Fahrenheit (38-degree Celsius) weather for an hour when a day-care worker took other children inside after a field trip to a mall, authorities said.

A neighbour had a simple explanation for the death of a 68-year-old woman whose body was found in her Kansas City, Mo., home Thursday.

"She was poor. She couldn't afford a fan or air conditioning. And it got really hot," the neighbour said.

"That's all there is to tell. She died. There are a lot of others in similar situations out there."

## Clinton urges CIA to recover from spy scandal

LANGLEY, Va. (R) — President Bill Clinton, on a morale-boosting visit to CIA Headquarters, said Friday the U.S. intelligence community must not be paralysed by fear of failure in the wake of the Aldridge Ames spy scandal.

"It's important that we don't minimise the damage that Ames did or the changes that need to be made to prevent future scandals," Mr. Clinton told employees of the embattled Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), who gathered on the lawn in front of its headquarters in Virginia on an unusually hot morning.

"Aldridge Ames was a terrible exception to a proud tradition of service," Mr. Clinton said. He referred to the veteran CIA employee unmasked in February 1994 as a traitor who had sold vital U.S. secrets to Moscow for nine years, making a mockery of CIA security measures.

"As we guard against a repeat of the Ames episode, we have to be careful not to produce a culture so risk-averse that case officers refuse to take chances and analysts are afraid to speak their minds," the president said.

Ames is now serving a life sentence but the CIA is still struggling to recover from the damage he caused. The unprecedented rainfall and a burst river dike were mainly to blame for the scale of the flooding, said local official Yang Fachun as his small boat weaved through tree tops.

It would take until the end of July to pump all the floodwater into a nearby river, Yang said.

Neglect of China's dikes is being widely blamed for the severity of this year's flooding.

Paikou officials say that under economic reforms allowing farmers to grow produce for their own profit, many have lost interest in collective water projects that eat their time.

"In the days of Chairman Mao (Tseung), the local government could set a date and thousands would go to do collective projects, for no money. Most of the big waterwork projects were done in that era," one official said.

"Now, you have to pay farmers to do it," he said. "It is more difficult. We should pay more attention to this."

China quake toll rises to 5

Meanwhile the death toll from an earthquake that rocked southwestern China has risen to five with 87 injured, some seriously, Xinhua said Saturday.

## 40 sentenced in Nigerian coup plot trial

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Forty people, including former military ruler Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, were convicted in a coup plot trial that has riveted Nigerians for the last six weeks, the government has announced.

The secret trials — condemned by governments and human-rights organisations worldwide — involved 51 military and civilian suspects and concluded Friday.

There had been many unconfirmed reports that some of the suspects had already been sentenced and executed, as has been the case in some past coup trials.

The secret tribunal began on June 6, after the government alleged it had foiled a coup attempt planned for March against military ruler Gen. Sani Abacha, who took power in a bloodless coup in November 1993.

Critics have said there was no coup plot and that Gen. Abacha simply wanted an excuse to round up opponents to silence them.

The secrecy surrounding the trials has outraged human-rights monitors. A delegation of monitors from Commonwealth nations is currently in Nigeria to investigate abuse allegations, which the government vigorously denied Thursday.

"We're extremely concerned that they may be sentenced to death and hastily executed, as has happened twice in the past following alleged coup plots in 1986 and a coup attempt in 1990," said Melissa Crow, spokeswoman for the Washington-based Human Rights Watch-Africa.

Nigerians expect that those whose death sentences are confirmed will be executed before their identities are revealed. More than 115 people were executed by firing squad in connection with the last three coup trials in Nigeria.

## Gingrich urges national drug referendum

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (R) — Powerful House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich called for a national referendum on legalising drugs in a sweeping speech to fellow Republicans Friday that criticised the Clinton administration as the most incompetent in U.S. history.

The Georgia congressman, who has not ruled out a bid for his party's presidential nomination, was the first speaker among eight presidential candidates to address the Republican National Committee summer meeting.

In the most dramatic initiative by the first Republican speaker of the House in 40 years, Mr. Gingrich called for a national vote on legalising drugs or a tough policy on drugs. He told reporters a vote would be 80 per cent to 20 per cent against legalisation.

Top White House drug fighter Lee Brown called a drug legalisation referendum "preposterous, the ultimate in defeatism."

"Drug abuse is an American crisis, not a partisan political opportunity... The political hypocrisy of axing effective anti-drug measures and then suggesting the defeatist alternative of legalisation is apparent enough," Mr. Brown said in a written statement.

Mr. Gingrich's address in Philadelphia outlined a conservative agenda that was against welfare dependence, touched on crime and included an appeal for a balanced budget that preserves the Medicare health programme for the elderly and the social security retirement programme.

Mr. Gingrich also attacked Mr. Clinton and urged the death penalty for drug importers and covert military training for besieged Bosnians.

The conservative leader proposed that people caught with drugs be required to serve two days of public service a week for a year. Those who miss a day of service should be sentenced to five years in prison, he added.

"Second, we ought to say flatly — you import a commercial quantity of drugs for the purpose of destroying our children, you will be killed," said Mr. Gingrich.

He also criticised the Clinton administration. "We have the least competent, the least adult, the least structured, the least disciplined, and least responsible administration, I think, probably in our country's history," said Mr. Gingrich, who is not known for understatement.

## China floods turn fields into lakes

PAIKOU COUNTY, China (R) — In picture postcard green fields, Chinese farmers were harvesting rice. A short distance away, neighbours' fields and their crops have disappeared under a giant lake.

Ten days after its heaviest rains in 100 years, much of Paikou County in flood-battered province lay under water Saturday. 18,000 people forced from their homes.

The floods have left three people dead in Paikou County and caused 200 million yuan (\$24 million) in economic losses.

More than 60 per cent of the county is under water and 1,000 houses have been ruined, with thousands swamped and 8,000 tonnes of rice destroyed, local officials said.

Underlining the extent of recent flood damage in Paikou and across swathes of south and central China, Vice Premier Jiang Chunyun called on officials to tend victims and ensure sufficient food, clothing and shelter.

Local officials must deliver relief and help farmers with financial burdens. "Those who add to such burdens should be disciplined," Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying.

Millions of people have been hurt by the floods. Human has been hardest hit with more than 400 people killed and 527 missing.

central China and widespread drought in the north have raised fears in Beijing for this year's harvests, officials say.

In Paikou, flood waters stretch as far as the eye can see, with treetops, the tips of telegraph poles and the second storeys of homes peeping above the surface.

Only boats move on the artificial lake as residents return to rescue their belongings from submerged homes.

"Our one-storey house was toppled by the floods," said Chen Chunxi, 58, as he puffed at a cigarette in the rattan shelter he shares with several others.

"Our new two-storey home is still standing but may collapse when the waters recede," Chen said.

"The last time this happened was in 1954," he said. "I lived in a straw house then and it was toppled by floods."

Like many others, Chen had no property insurance and will have to find the money to rebuild himself.

"We left on the morning of July 5, when the water was up to our knees," Chen Fenghua, a 35-year-old mother of two, said.

"There was no time to bring our belongings," she says. "Our one-storey home is completely submerged now. So are our rice fields, so we have lost the harvest."

Officials said torrential rains fell on Paikou county for 48 hours on June 22-23

## This time Godzilla really dies

TOKYO (R) — This time Godzilla is really going down for the count. After 21 films in which the Japanese science-fiction monster has died only to rise again, the makers of his next film say it will definitely and positively and absolutely be the creature's last rampage across the screen.

Chief producer Shogo Tomiyama of the Toho Company, maker of the Godzilla films, told reporters Saturday that after 21 adventures there were just no more new ideas left.

"That's why we've decided to put an end to the series," Tomiyama said. "We wanted to finish with Godzilla while he is still a star."

Godzilla first appeared on the screen in 1954, a giant dinosaur awakened from a long sleep at the bottom of the South Pacific Ocean by hydrogen bomb tests who sets out to destroy Tokyo.

Tomiyama said in the dinosaur's last appearance, Godzilla Vs Destroyer, set for release in December, the monster attacks Hong Kong. The movie, directed by Takao Ogawara, will return to the anti-nuclear, anti-war theme that dominated the original Godzilla film. Since then, Godzilla has battled every real and imagined high-technology weapon but has always returned from the dead to launch a new attack on Japan and its modern cities.

Thousands of fans thronged central Paris Friday for an outdoor "concert for tolerance" at the Eiffel Tower by French rock musician Jean-Michel Jarre, staged by the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO. Organisers expected up to 800,000 young people to watch the late-night sound-and-light show on France's Bastille Day national holiday, which involved illuminating the Eiffel Tower with laser beams and fireworks amid a multi-media concert with musicians from France, Algeria, Cameroon and the Caribbean.

"This concert for tolerance is a cry against all forms of discrimination and intolerance, and a cry against indifference," said French Culture Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy, one of the event's sponsors. "When you look at what is happening today in Bosnia, Algeria or Chechnya, it is urgent to get more tolerance out there into the streets," Jarre said. It was the first of a series of concerts around the world commissioned by the Paris-based UNESCO as part of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, he said.

## Thousands pack Jarre's concert for tolerance

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## Filipinos meet their portaloos

MANILA (AFP) — A "disposable mini-pee toilet" enabling drivers caught in traffic jams to relieve themselves in the privacy of their own car has come on stream in the Philippines. The ads for the Jingle Bag proclaim: "You can have pees of mind in the most unlikely places."

The campaign, launched Saturday, says the bag can be used by both sexes and once used, the urine inside turns into a gel which can be easily disposed of. "Jingle" is a Filipino slang term for urination.

## Robbers who set fire to cash jail

LONDON (R) — Three thieves who set fire to a fortune when bungling what would have been Britain's biggest cash robbery have been jailed for up to 12 years. They attacked a security van containing £11 million (\$17.4 million). But the raid in 1994 went wrong after the gang burned a hole in the van's side and £1.5 million (\$2.38 million) went up in flames. Judge David Griffiths, sentencing the trio Thursday at a court in Winchester, southern England, told them: "If successful, you three would have been rich men."

He said that stealing such a huge sum "would have meant one of you would have had to do a day's work for the rest of your lives."

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"We are not to engage in political activities as an official party until there is the global incorporation of the two armies — Dr. Savimbi







# Rio Slum: A world of violence, solidarity, horror and hope

By Todd Lewan  
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — To cross the invisible barrier that divides the world of comfortable apartments from the world of shanties on Dona Marta hill, the visitor needs a guide — and the blessing of a drug baron.

Today's guide is a boy of 11, "little blackie," who lives on the hill. He wears sandals and red bermudas. His head is shaved clean because of lice.

Permission to enter Dona Marta must come from Tamarero, the trafficker who operates a \$50,000-a-month cocaine business from a hilltop hideaway equipped with Uzis, AR-15 assault rifles and grenades.

Tamarero hasn't been seen on Rio's streets since 1991, the year he killed his way to the top of the drug gang. A network of "olheiros," lookouts, pass his decision in whispers down the maze of alleys in minutes.

"Let the visitor pass," Little Blackie's father, Miguel, is a "fogueteiro," a flare. His job is to alert the others to a police raid. He nods once to his son, who nods back.

"Come with me, sir," says the boy.

He bounds up the concrete stairway into a twilight world where police are bandits and bandits police and residents tiptoe a line between the two.

Dona Marta's 12,000 residents are mostly black or of mixed race, often barely able to read, grateful to find work for \$1 an hour.

The hill is ignored by politicians, except at election time. Police, too, rarely go to Dona Marta except for a cut of the drug profits. Two-fifths of Rio's 6.5 million inhabitants live here and in other hillside slums where fear and prejudice isolate them from the "asphalt city" below.

Little Blackie scampers up the steps past snoring dogs, chicken droppings, running sewage, and on past a Roman Catholic church with its windows blown out and bullet holes up and down its concrete walls.

"See how the bullets went in?" says Little Blackie, putting a forefinger in one of the holes. "The shots came from down below. It was the cops. They came last week trying to scare money out of the traffickers."

In an alley behind the church is a small stretch of Dona Marta's prized real estate. Jair Mauricio, an employee of the state electric company, lives there in a three-house with running water and electricity.



A Brazilian army helicopter flies low over a Rio slum as part of a campaign to crack down on illegal trade in arms and drugs (AFP photo)

Dona Marta appears on city maps in light green, as if it were a park. There is nothing to indicate its labyrinth of alleys, its 2,500 homes, two barbershops, video rental store and 40 "biscas," family stores.

Its shanties are bunched so tightly that neighbours pass borrowed items from window to window. There are no secrets, no privacy.

Music blares out onto streets ironically named: Peace and Quiet Street, Rising Sun Lane or Silence Lane. Houses stay open day and night. There are no locks.

Little Blackie explains: "This is the safest place in Rio," he says. "If you rob a house or rape a girl, pal, you pay for it." He draws a forefinger across his throat.

Traffickers, it seems, have their own ways of keeping the peace. One teen-ager was caught stealing a handbag-a gang member poured acid on his palm. A drunk who didn't pay his beer tab had his nails pulled out.

Bullet holes riddle a concrete wall topped with barbed wire. The boy explains the holes.

"Those are left by the gang when they execute an enemy," he says. "They line them up, shoot them, then pitch their bodies over the wall."

The law the traffickers enforce above all is the code of silence.

"The bandits respect us," says Suely De Oliveira, a housemaid who supports seven children. "You just have to respect them back and not get in their way, that's all."

The traffickers sponsor dances and a youth soccer team. They distribute clothes and often pay bills for unemployed parents.

Young boys, called "air-planes," who run cocaine to customers can make \$500 a week, quite a sum in a country with a minimum wage of \$110 a month. A "manager" can earn many times that, and Tamarero offers a nice "retirement" plan: He pays for the burials of traffickers killed by police and gives their families lifetime pensions.

Jorge Luis Dos Santos is

getting ready to pour the foundation for his new house. His old shanty burned down when a neighbour's cooking gas canister exploded and set fire to 47 shacks. The city promised to build new homes, but never did.

Santos turned to the only help he can get. "I got some savings, and I got some more money to buy materials from the boys up top," says Santos, 32, a plumber, motoring to the top of the hill where the traffickers have their hide-ways.

"Sir, I know what they do isn't right. People down below make a fuss when you mention the traffickers. But they're helping me. God bless me, I say. God bless them."

The path suddenly opens on a breathtaking view of Guanabara Bay, pearl beaches, sugarcane, and the Christ the Redeemer statue atop purple Corcovado Mountain.

"You should see it at night," says Inacia Rodrigues De Lima, 53, scrubbing her laundry on a rock and rinsing it in a bucket.

"It's so pretty, you sometimes feel closer to God." For years, Brazil pushed a falsely Romantic image of its slums as cradles of carnival, samba and poor-but-happy people. That misconception got a boost from the 1959 movie "Black Orpheus" set against a backdrop of Rio carnival.

Climbing higher, Little Blackie points out a drab house. "The residents' association," he says.

A man as thin as a grasshopper sits on the stoop. He is Jose Luis De Oliveira, or "Ze" for short, the third association president since 1991. His predecessors were shot to death.

Ze ushers his visitors inside. He blows the dust off his desk and couch, then plops himself into a chair. On the wall behind him hang faded pictures of John Lennon and Che Guevara.

"Welcome to Bosnia," he jokes.

Just then, two young men in purple bermudas climb up the alley, each brandishing a 9 MM automatic pistol. They nod at Ze through the window. Ze explains that soldiers and

police began raiding Rio's slums in March to strangle the drug trade. The traffickers are jumpy and suspect all outsiders.

The sky roars and the walls shake. An army helicopter hovers above, looking for traffickers. Outside, children squeal and jump up and down.

"As I was saying," Ze goes on, "this is all a big show. A whole army isn't going to stop the traffickers. You know, the coke doesn't grow here, and the guns aren't made here. They're the flower of a weed that has roots down below, in the city."

Ze, a high school graduate who worked as a gardener, sidewalk salesman and delivery boy, took over as association president in the summer of 1993 when his predecessor was executed.

"Big Chico," the husky president of the residents' association and "Heguinha," his secretary, had broken the code of silence by informing on the gang. It was no surprise to residents when a group of men with guns appeared

one night at the door of a bar where the couple sat over beers.

"The gunmen filled their mouths with shots," whispers a portly, old woman named Gloria who was at home in her shack 3 metres away from the shooting. She never saw the killers, she swears.

Ze is the fixer in this favela, of slum. He distributes mail, takes phone messages, posts job offers, organizes samba dances. "Somebody's got to do these things," he says. "Otherwise, people will have to rely on the traffickers for everything."

Left to their own devices, Dona Marta's residents have come up with imaginative ways of coping with deprivation.

A web of white vinyl tubes that crisscrosses the slum, rooftop to rooftop. It distributes chlorinated drinking water from a tower atop the hill to 80 per cent of the homes.

From the outside, Dona Marta at night looks like a thousand points of light on a black mountain skyline. Few "cariocas," or Rio resi-

dents, realise that taxpayers are footing the bill.

No one pays for electricity in Dona Marta. Residents just tap into power lines.

Years ago, it was not uncommon for the favela's children to be locked away in closets or chained for hours at a time while their parents were at work.

In 1986, a 6-month-old boy strangled to death with a rope used to tie him to his working mother's bed. The women of Dona Marta decided to act.

They lugged boards, pipes, sacks of cement, concrete mixers and tools up the hill, and, with the help of an American priest, built the slum's first day care centre.

Two more followed. Today, 850 infants and children receive meals, classes in music, painting and spelling, and share a huge gym mat for their afternoon nap.

The top of the hill is the worst part of Dona Marta. The stench is heavier, the shacks are mud and sticks, the alleys narrow. The steps disappear and the path turns mucky.

Raw sewage flows down the hill in black ditches. Fernandes leans against a rock face with a challenge painted on it in Portuguese: Enough of hepatitis. Let's fight it.

"At dusk the rats come out of the ditches," he says.

"They're so big they chase the cats. This whole area is full of disease, and those rats are part of the reason."

Fernandes descends along the edge of a steep, bald slope. Years ago, a tropical storm swept a dozen butts thousands of yards down the hill, some with people trapped inside.

It is said that after the storm passed people saw the image of St. John the Baptist walking along with the slope. "From then, on, residents called the favela 'Santa Marta.' Only outsiders still call it Dona Marta," he says.

Dusk is falling as Little Blackie leads the way down the alleys. The sweltering heat retreats before a light ocean breeze.

Lamps flicker on. The smell of black bean stew, boiling cabbage and fried rice and bananas drifts in the night air. Radios are muted and shadows soften the hard edges of Dona Marta.

Little Blackie stops at the bottom of the hill. He turns to go, then stops.

"Will you ever come back to visit, sir?"

"Sure. Why not?" The boy shrugs. "Not many people do," he says.

## Serbs press assault on Zepa

(Continued from page 1)

Thousands of men and male teenagers from Srebrenica have been seized by the Serbs and taken to unknown locations, and there were unconfirmed reports of killings and rapes.

The U.N. failure to protect Srebrenica infuriated the Bosnian government, which pledged its lightly armed troops would defend Zepa and Gorazde, if it too is attacked.

Thousands of refugees chased out of Srebrenica were bused out to the northern government stronghold of Tuzla where they have spent cool nights and sweltering days in the open with inadequate food and sanitation.

The Bosnian government blamed the United Nations for the exodus. Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde are the three Muslim enclaves along the Serbian border in eastern Bosnia. The fall of these areas would give the Serbs an uninterrupted swath of territory running from the Serbian border to the block of government-held land in central Bosnia.

The situation improved Saturday for the refugees in Tuzla. The government, which at first refused to cooperate with the United Nations in attending to the refugees, opened shelters to accommodate 11,000 people. At the U.N.-controlled airfield, where the thousands had initially converged, 700 tents were erected for another 5,400 people.

The danger of disease, such as diarrhoea, spreading among the refugees was great, the World Health Organisation said. UNICEF said it will launch a vaccination campaign in Tuzla next week against polio, measles, tuberculosis and diphtheria.

The U.N. Security Council on Friday condemned the mass deportation from Srebrenica as "a clear violation of... human rights," but did not say it would do anything to stop them.

France has failed to win backing for its demand to use force to reestablish the Srebrenica "safe area" and defend others. U.N. officials on the ground dismissed the idea as unfeasible.

Russian Vitaly Churkin held talks with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale Friday. The "foreign minister" in the rebel Serbs' self-proclaimed government said Saturday that Mr. Churkin aimed to win guarantees that the Dutch peacekeepers seized by the Serbs in Srebrenica and hundreds of others surrounded at their base north of that "safe area" would be freed.

"We pledge that in the next few days the Dutch will be free to go wherever they want," Aleksa Buha said. In the past, the Serbs have only made such promises in exchange for something. Over 300 U.N. hostages taken after the Serbs reportedly won assurances of no more airstrikes.

That pledge was broken with last minute attacks against Serb tanks around Srebrenica, but the air strikes failed to halt the Serb offensive.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, the U.N. envoy now responsible for Bosnia, was expected to meet Serb leaders on Saturday.

## Kabariti begins Saudi visit

(Continued from page 1)

break the ice and restore ties," a Jordanian official told Reuters.

Officials cautioned against expecting a dramatic change but said they hoped Mr. Kabariti's trip could lead to a summit meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd this year.

The Saudi foreign minister told AFP: "This visit will allow us to review all questions relating to bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab region."

The two ministers, who met in March in Cairo on the sidelines of a meeting of the Arab League when they agreed the visit in principle, went into a meeting immediately after Mr. Kabariti's arrival.

On Thursday, King Hussein said he hoped the visit would be "a step towards establishing solid relations" between the two countries.

In a departure statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan hopes the visit will open a new chapter in relations between the two sides, noting that he will hold with Prince Saud "serious talks that will be characterised with candidness in order to lay the basis for a fruitful dialogue which Jordan hopes will continue at all levels."

This dialogue, he added, is needed to pave the way for a future relationship based on clear principles stressing that the two sides have strategic issues and common interests to discuss.

Expressing hope that the

two countries will restore their normal relations soon, the minister said the time had come for normal ties to be resumed.

"Abnormal relations had existed due to abnormal situations which have now disappeared," he said.

"We hope that the visit will herald a new beginning on the long road of cooperation and coordination between Saudi Arabia and Jordan and will pave the way for meeting by officials from the two countries for the best interest of their people," said Mr. Kabariti in his statement.

The minister, who is accompanied by two Foreign Ministry officials, was seen off by the charge d'affaires of the Saudi Arabian embassy in Jordan.

## Israel, PLO to draft deal today

(Continued from page 1)

weekly meeting. Israel warned Saturday that negotiators faced a tough task in hammering out a deal on extending self-rule by July 25 after missing an earlier July 1 target date.

"There is still a lot of work, especially in writing the accord, and we will have to be creative to solve issues as important as water-sharing," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israeli radio.

The issue is even "more important because Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are short on water. That is why we have to find a solution to prevent waste water from polluting drinking water," he added.

A foreign ministry official said the open-ended talks would go on until they reached a full accord.

"We will do our best to meet the deadline," Dr. Ezerkat said. "But the substance of the accord is much more important than the date at the top of it."

"We are going to try to leave nothing outstanding and find guarantees for the continued redeployment of the Israeli army," he said.

Mr. Peres said Israel was ready to negotiate the water issue, but wanted to maintain control of the vital resource. "When it comes to water, there can only be one conductor," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Turkey appoints new public works minister

ANKARA (R) — Turkey on Saturday appointed Hail Cuihaoglu as public works minister to replace Erman Sahin who quit his post on Friday over a row on bureaucratic appointments. The appointment was made public in the official gazette. Anatolian news agency said. Mr. Sahin and Mr. Cuihaoglu belong to the junior coalition partner social democrat Republican People's Party (RPP). Mr. Cuihaoglu served as public works and tourism minister in previous coalition governments but lost his post earlier this year after Hikmet Cetin took over as RPP chairman. The coalition, formed in 1991, has been hit by a series of cabinet resignations and squabbling between its social democrat and conservative wings in recent months.

### Italian senators urge end to Iraq embargo

ROME (R) — Italian senators presented an all-party motion on Friday asking their government to press for the end to a four-year U.N. trade embargo on Iraq because of its tragic effects on the Iraqi people. The trade sanctions, which include a ban on Iraqi oil sales, were imposed following its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The motion, signed by 42 senators, said the embargo caused alarming poverty and hunger among Iraqis who needed extra humanitarian aid quickly. The U.N. Security Council has yet to give Iraq a clean bill of health on fulfilment of Gulf war ceasefire term which include the scrapping of weapons of mass destruction.

### U.N. experts inspect Nicosia bastion works

NICOSIA (R) — United Nations military experts on Friday inspected a building site in Turkish-held Nicosia which the Cyprus government suspects is being used by the Turkish Cypriot community to boost military fortifications. The eight-member team of experts sent by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), toured the Rokkas bastion on Nicosia's medieval walls for three hours at midday Friday as a helicopter hovered above the site. An aeroplane from the Turkish army also flew over the area. UNFICYP officials refused to state the result of the visit. The military experts reported directly back to chief of mission Gustave Feissel. Cyprus's Greek-run government has protested to the U.N. Security Council over the works which they believe violate a 1989 disengagement agreement banning military activity in that area and several others of capital Nicosia.







# business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Vacant flats in Jordan total 4,000

There are 4,000 vacant apartments in Jordan, with 3,200 of them, or 80 per cent of the total, concentrated in Amman, according to President of the Jordanian Real Estate Investors Society Mohammad Kheir Kilani. Mr. Kilani said about 80 per cent of the 3,200 vacant apartments in Amman, are located in the western part of the city. He added that the Kingdom's annual need of new apartments stands at about 30,000, of which 20,000 are in Amman. He said about 80 per cent should fit the needs of low and middle-income families, but instead a large percentage of them do not meet this requirement. He said despite the fact that the high number of vacant apartments should create a state of balance between supply and demand, the market is still suffering from a state of uncertainty because of the prevailing political situation. Meanwhile, the director of a real estate office in Amman attributed the slump in the real estate market to high expectations, on the part of real estate owners, of flow of capital from Arab investors into Jordan. He said a dunum of land (1,000 square metres) in the western Amman area of Khilda now fetches JD 50,000, in Umm Al-Summaq JD 70,000, in Al-Rabiya from JD 100,000 to 120,000, in Sweifiyyeh from 100,000-140,000 and in Abdoon JD 185,000. He said the biggest obstacle facing foreign investors in the real estate market in the Kingdom was bureaucracy which might take a foreign investor buying land in Jordan between 30-40 days (Al Aswaq).

**\*\* A meeting will gather** Jordanian and Israeli-Arab businessmen in Amman in the period July 18-20. About 150 Israeli-Arabs representing 19 Palestinian cities and villages in Israel are expected to take part in the meeting, organised by the Hashemite League for International Economic Cooperation. League Executive President Maan thibyan said the bulk of Israeli-Arab participants are importers who will have the chance to meet with Jordanian exporters. Mr. Thibyan said that the Israeli-Arabs play an important role in the Israeli economy, noting their annual income totals about \$6 billion, or about 150 per cent of the volume of the Jordanian economy. Thus, they could be an important market for Jordanian products which can, in terms of cost, compete with similar Israeli products, he continued, adding that the Arab-Israelis also have marketing experience and connections in international markets and can help Jordanian exporters increase their clientele abroad (Al Rai).

## Kuwait, Union Carbide launch \$2b project

KUWAIT (AP) — The U.S. chemical giant Union Carbide and Kuwait's Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) Saturday launched a \$2 billion joint venture to build a petrochemical plant in the emirate.

Union Carbide is the first foreign partner allowed to invest in the government-owned oil sector, part of a post-Gulf war plan to revitalize the economy.

This includes large-scale privatisation to attract foreign investment and reduce government spending — the state employs around 90 per cent of the workforce — and eliminate a budget deficit, currently pegged at \$3.96 billion by the year 2000.

"We think this will be the world's most competitive producer for the products we're going to make," William Joyce, Union Carbide's president and chief executive officer, said before signing the joint venture agreement with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen Al Madaj.

The venture, Equate, will be 45 per cent owned by Union Carbide. PIC will own an equal share, and the remaining 10 per cent will be offered to the public through the Boubyan Petrochemicals Co.

Later Saturday, the partners will break the ground for the plant at Shuaiba, an area with an oil refinery and port.

40 kilometres south of Kuwait City. The facility, scheduled for completion in mid-1997, will eventually produce 650,000 tonnes of ethylene a year, along with 450,000 tonnes of polyethylene and 350,000 tonnes of ethylene glycol.

Khaled Buhamrah, PIC's chairman and managing director, said the project was a "dream come true" that combines Kuwait's low-cost feedstock and U.S. state-of-the-art technology.

He said a company will be set up in Bahrain to market the giant plant's products, mainly in Asia.

Mr. Buhamrah said Equate will coordinate its operations

with other companies in the Gulf which produce similar products because they all need to "satisfy the markets without hurting each other."

He said other joint ventures are in the offing, including an aromatics plant with Amoco. He did not elaborate.

The Equate plant will be built by foreign contracts, several of which have been awarded to Brown and Root Inc., Foster Wheeler Italiana and Fluor Daniel Inc.

The plant will provide jobs for some 800 people, mostly Kuwaitis.

Mr. Buhamrah said the joint venture includes setting up a research and technology facility.

## Iran says oil deal with France is big loss for U.S.

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran boasted Saturday that its deal with France's Total oil company to develop offshore fields in the Gulf is a major defeat for the Clinton administration's campaign to throttle the Islamic republic.

Total, defying U.S. pressure to isolate Iran, announced Thursday that it had won the contract to develop the Sirri-A and Sirri-E fields off the Houston-based U.S. oil giant Conoco was forced by Washington to scrap a deal it had made with Tehran in March through a Dutch subsidiary.

The official Islamic republic news agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Tehran English-language Iran News daily as saying that by allow-

ing the contract with Total to go ahead, France has demonstrated its "political awareness and independent will."

After forcing Conoco to abandon the landmark agreement with the National Iranian Oil Co. President Clinton imposed a blanket U.S. ban on all trade and financial dealings with Iran in an effort to pressure it into abandoning its alleged support for terrorism and alleged clandestine programme to acquire nuclear weapons.

The Americans urged their allies to follow suit. But so far only Israel and Uzbekistan have done so since the ban took effect June 6 and no one else shows any sign of joining the U.S. effort.

"The West has defied Clinton's trade and investment ban on Iran," the daily declared. "This defiance is ample proof of the humiliation suffered by the U.S. in the world political arena."

Under the new agreement, Total will be responsible for securing financing for all the project's costs, estimated at \$600 million.

Production is expected to begin in three years. The two fields' production capacity has been estimated at 120,000 barrels a day, of which Total will get about one-third in return for its investment.

Developing the two fields in the southern Gulf is crucial for Iran's drive to boost its oil production capacity and de-

velop new fields. Oil exports account for some 90 per cent of Iran's revenue.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Friday welcomed the agreement with Total, saying it was a boost for bilateral relations. Tehran Radio reported.

Speaking at a ceremony in Tehran to mark France's national day, Mr. Velayati described the deal as "a big step towards the expansion of bilateral ties" and said he hoped that there will be a similar expansion in other fields.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers its relations with the Republic of France as permanent and long-term," Mr. Velayati said.

## Abu Dhabi to privatise public enterprises

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi is to sell off shares in public undertakings as part of a privatisation programme to diversify its oil-reliant economy, the official news agency WAM said Saturday.

Shares worth more than one billion dirhams (\$272 million) will be sold in cement and other non-oil industrial concerns, Rahma Al Masud, chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told the agency.

"This stage will be followed with other stages to privatise some public services institutions. Their shares will be traded at the official stock exchange, which will be established soon," he said.

"We invite all national investors to participate in the privatisation programmes to push the develop-

ment process into a new phase."

Mr. Masud gave no details of the industries to be sold but the state-owned General Industry Corporation said early this year they would include cement, flour and plastic bag factories. Revenue from privatisation would be used in setting up other projects.

Kuwait, Oman and other Gulf Arab states have launched privatisation programmes while Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil power, has announced similar economic reforms to cushion the impact of weak crude prices.

In its 1994 annual report released Saturday, the Abu Dhabi chamber said the emirate had allocated around 48 billion dirhams (\$13 billion) for development projects between 1993 and 1997.

It said Abu Dhabi's economy grew by 2.9 per cent in 1994 and the trade balance surplus increased to around \$6 billion from \$5.7 billion in 1993. It forecast a 24.3 per cent growth in trade until 1996.

Abu Dhabi is the main oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with an output of around 1.8 million barrels per day, accounting for more than 80 per cent of the country's total crude production.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 15/07/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PTC	980	210190	216.000	213.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4800	22148	4.670	4.590
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	700	3157	4.510	4.510
BANK OF JORDAN	1600	5450	3.470	3.420
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	22100	29055	1.320	1.330
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1524	3680	2.550	2.550
THE HOUSING BANK	4330	35287	8.150	8.150
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	1894	5379	2.840	2.850
JORDAN GULF BANK	2500	3087	1.240	1.230
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1400	5390	3.800	3.850
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	12057	45097	3.750	3.740
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	2250	9830	4.400	4.360
BEIT KHALD SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	250	936	3.770	3.750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	40950	45821	1.100	1.120
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	50750	85711	1.660	1.690
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>148085</b>	<b>510416</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 177.78</b>	<b>CHANGE: -1.08%</b>
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2250	5963	2.670	2.650
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	60	90	1.500	1.500
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>2326</b>	<b>6222</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 135.28</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.09%</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	43080	69967	1.650	1.630
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	600	1716	2.920	2.840
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1400	3099	2.210	2.200
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1000	1000	2.330	2.320
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBA'I	550	5445	10.000	9.900
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	600	1344	2.290	2.240
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	4700	15497	3.310	3.290
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>51930</b>	<b>98088</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 130.80</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.89%</b>
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	11308	41383	3.700	3.640
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	2243	6743	3.050	3.010
THE ARAB POTASH	250	1279	5.120	5.110
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9747	9947	10.220	10.200
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	166	614	3.250	3.250
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	2206	17406	7.900	7.800
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	10223	49206	4.840	4.810
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	850	3245	5.950	5.900
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	1800	3840	2.160	2.120
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	164	631	3.800	3.850
SPINNING & WEAVING	2000	4100	2.020	2.050
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	2250	5580	2.470	2.480
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2328	7950	3.400	3.370
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2100	1593	770	750
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	2650	14628	5.690	5.520
GENERAL INVESTMENT	700	1904	2.730	2.700
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	600	685	1.130	1.120
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1500	3510	2.450	2.330
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	4000	4580	1.170	1.140
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	19650	44241	2.260	2.250
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	250	1120	3.200	3.210
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	350	550	1.610	1.570
KAWTHAR INVESTMENT	3711	8209	2.220	2.180
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	5300	8162	1.540	1.540
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	900	1605	1.730	1.710
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	18129	61847	3.120	3.100
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>116716</b>	<b>337223</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 128.17</b>	<b>CHANGE: -1.16%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>319057</b>	<b>951849</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 153.46</b>	<b>CHANGE: -1.07%</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		143736		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		155293		

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Financial Markets			
Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close 13/7/95	New York Close 14/7/95	
sterling Pound	1.5995	1.5945	
Deutsche Mark	1.3893	1.3910	
Swiss Franc	1.1595	1.1635	
French Franc	4.8463	4.8475	
Japanese Yen	87.43	87.65	
European Currency Unit	1.3320	1.3403	

Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Date: 14/7/1995			
Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	12 MTN
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.56	5.50
sterling Pound	6.37	6.50	6.68
Deutsche Mark	4.25	4.25	4.25
Swiss Franc	2.50	2.62	2.75
French Franc	6.43	6.28	6.10
Japanese Yen	0.68	0.68	0.62
European Currency Unit	5.88	5.87	5.90

Precious Metals			
Date: 14/7/1995			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	
Gold	388.75	7.50	
Silver	4.25	0.120	

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Date: 15/7/1995			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980	
sterling Pound	1.1092	1.1147	
Deutsche Mark	0.5001	0.5026	
Swiss Franc	0.5972	0.6008	
French Franc	0.1434	0.1441	
Japanese Yen	0.7916	0.7958	
Dutch Guilder	0.4463	0.4485	
Swedish Krona	0.0432	0.0434	
Italian Lira	0.0432	0.0434	
Belgian Franc	0.0432	0.0434	

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## Jalabert magnificent in victory

WENDE, France (AFP) — Frenchman Laurent Jalabert rode the race of the Tour de France here on Friday winning the 222-kilometre 12th stage from St. Etienne having broken away from the main group after only 20 kilometres.

Jalabert's victory was most opportune coming on France's traditional Bastille Day celebrations. While that day in 1789 haggard prisoners were released and the unfortunate governor lost his head, this day in 1995 Jalabert was not in such a generous mood to release anybody from his leading group and left the race's governor Miguel Indurain with a sweaty brow, but with his lead intact.

The charismatic Jalabert said after the stage: "Perhaps it was suicide to go after 20 kilometres but it was Bastille Day!" Jalabert asked how he would celebrate, before making his traditional post stage telephone call to his wife, said: "There will certainly be some fireworks."

Jalabert, who held the yellow jersey earlier in the race until losing the lead in a crash on the fourth stage, was helped by two formidable teammates, Australian Neil Stephens and Spaniard Melchor Mauri.

Indurain tried to breach the gap and got within 15 seconds but from then on the six man group pulled away. At one stage Jalabert was on course to take the overall lead but with only Stephens and Mauri unselfishly doing the work the other three members of the group were content to be towed along.

The other three were Massimo Podenzana who finished second, Dario Bottaro and Andrea Peron.

Stephens was dropped on the penultimate ascent, having done a magnificent job.

but Mauri eighth overall and fifth in the stage kept the momentum going.

The peloton was behaving strangely as not just the Banesto team but also the Novelli team of Djamolidine Abdoujaparov set the pace to claw back the leaders. These were strange tactics to employ as surely the objective for the other participants was for Indurain's team to do all the work as he was the man most in danger.

### Tour de France

Abdujaparov on the other hand had no chance of gaining any points in the battle for the green jersey which Jalabert holds.

The gap kept on declining and with Jalabert and Mauri continuing to do the work it appeared that they were setting up victory for one of the hangers on. Jalabert though is no longer just a flat stage rider with a mean sprint finish in him and he seized his chance on the final climb bursting clear with only Daniele Bottaro capable of giving chase.

The thought crossed the mind that surely this man who so narrowly escaped death last year in the stage to Armentieres and had to be

drip fed for weeks and given a virtual new set of teeth could not hold on after such a long Scarlet Pimpernel type escape.

Thankfully the answer for those who indulge in romanticism the answer was yes he could and at the finish he raised his arms to a roar that has scarcely been bettered since France won the 1984 European Football Championship.

Behind the victor the peloton split at the start of the final climb. Marco Pantani

victor of Alpe d'Huez on Wednesday tried to steal a march on Indurain, but the big Spaniard emotionless as ever calmly swept him up and dismissed Swiss Alex Zülle only to have Dane Bjarne Riis on his shoulder.

Riis's attentions were less focussed on taking time off Indurain as retaining his third spot overall which was endangered by Jalabert. Hard as Riis cycled he was unable to avert his fall from the podium places.

Jalabert's victory though will go down as one of the greatest ever and perhaps, just perhaps this tour is not all over yet.

#### Overall standings

1. Miguel Indurain (Spa)	52hr 46min 51 sec.
2. Alex Zülle (Swi)	2:44
3. Laurent Jalabert (Fra)	3:35
4. Bjarne Riis (Den)	6:00
5. Melchor Mauri (Spa)	7:56
6. Tony Rominger (Swi)	8:56
7. Ivan Gotti (Ita)	8:57
8. Marco Pantani (Ita)	12:38
9. Fernando Escartin (Spa)	14:20
10. Claudio Chiappucci (Ita)	14:59
11. Richard Virenque (Fra)	16:35
12. Pavel Tonkov (Rus)	16:36
13. Laurent Madouas (Fra)	17:22
14. Erik Breukink (Ned)	18:54
15. Laurent Dufaux (Swi)	19:43

## Egypt book place in African Nations' Cup finals

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Egypt booked a place at the 1996 African Nations' Cup finals despite being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Algeria in a Group 4 qualifying match on Friday night.

The Pharaohs, who have lifted the cup three times, top the standings with 13 points followed by Algeria with 11, Uganda with eight and Tanzania, Sudan and Ethiopia with six each.

Algeria complete their 10-match programme on July 28 at home to Tanzania and a victory would assure them a berth at the 16-nation tournament, which begins January 13 in South Africa.

Ghana, champions a record four times, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Zambia and Burkina Faso have already reached the biennial finals, while hosts South Africa and holders Nigeria were automatic qualifiers.

The Cairo result was a personal triumph for former

Algerian star Ali Fergani, who replaced Rabah Madjer as coach after the national team was held at home by Uganda last month.

With home advantage and the partisan backing of a near-capacity 100,000 crowd at the Nasser Stadium, Egypt were expected to avenge a 1-0 defeat in Algiers last January.

But it was the visitors who struck first as veteran forward Kaci Said gained possession on the edge of the penalty area in the 42nd minute, turned a defender and slammed the ball into the roof of the net.

The goal stung the lethargic Egyptians to life and a series of second-half assaults on the Algerian goalmouth paid off in the 61st minute when Ibrahim Al-Masry equalised with his first cup goal.

Al-Masry rounded two defenders before sending a

swirling shot past the slow-reacting Algerian goalkeepers to ensure Egypt retained their unbeaten home record in the qualifying competition. Algeria caused another scare among local supporters soon after the equaliser when a long-range shot flew just over the crossbar with the Egyptian goalkeeper beaten.

The first match between the countries in Cairo since an ill-tempered World Cup tie six years ago went off without incident and it was played in good spirit.

Concerned about the threat of violence, the authorities placed thousands of police and troops in riot gear inside the giant stadium in the heart of the Egyptian capital.

Mauritania, one of the weakest African football nations, broke a 10-year victory drought in the competition by defeating Togo 2-1 in Group 2 match in Nouakchott.

## Women's national basketball team, strapped for cash, might miss chance to 'make history'

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — July 23-31 will hopefully go down as a memorable week for Jordanian basketball as it would be the first time the women's national basketball team competes in the Asian Women's Championship to be held in Shizuoka, Japan.

That is, however, if the team comes up with at least JD 4,500 in the coming four days.

Because of the shortage of funds, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Saturday also asked the team's coach to name only 10 players on the team instead of the usual 12.

With less than a week remaining for their scheduled departure, the team is practicing hard hoping that obstacles will be solved in the coming two days.

The JBF's women's basketball committee, the players and the coach have been running a fund-raising campaign for the past month after being told that they should come up with the money (nearly JD 13,000) to cover their air fare as the JBF had utilised almost JD 65,000 on the youth (under-18) team's preparations for the World Championship currently under way in Athens.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the team's fund-raising committee thanked all the sponsors and donors who have so far contributed JD 5,600 but said another 4,500 at least was needed to cover the rest of the cost. The JBF was only able to provide JD 2,300 and is still awaiting the Ministry of Youth's contribution as well as some other pledges.

"Some people and institutions have been very understanding, and have almost made our trip come true," coach Fadi Sabbah said. "However we are still short of our target."

Among those who supported the team were: the Arab Banking Corporation, Jordan Express, the Jordan Kuwait Bank, the Business Bank, Astra Co., Kamil Saaduddin, Rafik Hamarneh, the Union Bank, JETT, the Cairo Amman Bank, Nael Kassar, the British Bank of the Middle East, the Sabagh Group, the Housing Bank, the Bank of Jordan, Fine Company, Ahmad Tjani and Elba.

After having trained for the past six months, the players cannot but help feel that they have been treated in an offhand manner despite the fact that their participation would make history as Jordan has lacked a women's team since 1983 and they will be the only Arab team among 13 countries.

With no courts reserved for practice, the team members said they have been training wherever one was available, and have not asked the JBF for any expenses usually paid for national team players. Some team members were told by their university professors that they would have to drop their summer course if they travel.

The Jordanian team will be playing in Level B with teams from Indonesia, Hong Kong, India, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Level A includes China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Kazakhstan and Taiwan.

Because of the JBF's limited budget, the team only had four practice matches of the 12-16 the coach had requested to be arranged prior to departure. Jordan beat visiting Syrian champions Al Jala twice and lost two games with the same team.

The fact that the team visibly improved from one match to another shows that the players have adapted to each other's play and only need more preparation. Four matches against a Ukrainian team were recently cancelled.

The team includes Rana Hussein, Suhair Makusi, Tala Al Mauje, Jumana Sali, Jehan Abdounour, Rania Dajani, Sirsa Nughay, Hala Muheisen, Hind Ghouri, Andeira Kasieh, Tetiana Qardan and Zein Sha'sha'a.

## Hill keeps pole in rainy session

SILVERSTONE, England (AFP) — Britain's Damon Hill, driving a Williams Renault, held pole position for Sunday's British Grand Prix, which he predicted "will be a thriller."

Rain in Saturday's final qualifying prevented anyone from improving on his pole time from the first session Friday.

Hill's great rival, the German world champion Michael Schumacher, shares the front row of the grid, with Hill's Scottish teammate David Coulthard and Austrian Gerhard Berger in a Ferrari on the second row.

Schumacher goes into the eight race of the 17 race season leading the 1995 championship by 11 points from Hill.

Heavy rain shortly before the final qualifying session, and intermittent showers during it, meant that no improvements were possible on the times set in dry weather on Friday.

The top six were completed by Schumacher's British teammate Johnny Herbert and Berger's teammate, the spectacular French driver Jean Alesi.

Schumacher, Berger and Herbert all had spins during the session, Herbert's car ending in a tyre barrier, but with only minor damage.

The German said he was "a bit disappointed that the weather wasn't better, as we had some problems yesterday. We found solutions last night" and he said he would like to have tested them on a dry track.

Hill said with a smile that "I can hardly say I'm unhappy. And I'm very pleased we got something done for the spectators, with a bit of spectacular driving for them."

"The pole means a great deal to me. I've started a few times from pole this season and the position has been reversed in the race, and I'll have to do something about it."

Hill said he "hopes to fulfil the hopes of the British fans here. There were 37,000 spectators on Friday, 40,000 on Saturday and Sunday has been a 90,000 seat sell out for weeks."

"It's an opportunity I gratefully accept and enjoy," said Hill. "I hope it's dry tomorrow and that we see a very exciting motor race."

He recalled that he and Schumacher had been very close during testing here, and I expect it to be a thriller."

With more showers predicted for Sunday, Hill said "I don't mind the damp, but not if it's raining very heavily."

His wife Georgie is expecting their third child at any moment, and Hill said he was been "ringing home all the time but there's no answer." He grinned and said "I'm a bit worried."

Schumacher said Benetton was prepared for either a dry or wet race, but that he did not like the uncertainties of mixed weather.

The drivers had run very limited laps on Saturday afternoon, and Hill and Schumacher were asked if they did not have an obligation to the spectators to put on a better show.

## Russian ends Sergi's fun run

GSTAAD, Switzerland (Agencies) — Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov ended a three-year run of success for Spain's Sergi Bruguera, defeating the third seed 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Kafelnikov, 21, was dominant under cloudy skies at the 1,100m high venue, levelling his career record against the 24-year-old Spaniard at 2-2.

"I never thought that I could beat Sergi on clay," he said. "I played unbelievably. I really thought I had almost no chance today."

Bruguera had not lost in 18 matches at Gstaad, winning the title for the last three years, but his form has yet to recover five months after undergoing knee surgery.

"I feel no pain in the knee but I am not playing at my best," he said. "I have played poorly here all week."

After losing the first set, Bruguera was broken 0-2. He settled into his rhythm but it was too late.

Kafelnikov produced a service winner in the ninth game for match point, then sent a backhand to the Spaniard's feet to earn his fourth final place of 1995.



Yevgeny Kafelnikov

"This is my best win ever on clay," he said.

Hasek upset Swiss Davis Cup Rosset 6-3 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Hasek, ranked eighth in the world in 1988 but now down to 124th, entered the tournament on a wild card.

But the 30-year-old looked back to his best with a fine display of serve-and-volley tennis against his fourth-seeded compatriot.

Rosset, six years younger, failed to get his booming first serve working and was overpowered in just 75 minutes.

Hasek now plays his first final since 1991 when he beat John McEnroe in Basel.

"I was thinking of retiring if I was beaten here in the early rounds," said Hasek. "The crowd was behind me as the underdog and that inspired me."

## Fans want Ferguson to resign

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Alex Ferguson should resign as Manchester United's manager according to a poll conducted here on Friday among the team's disillusioned fans.

The shock verdict was delivered by the Manchester Evening News, who set up a phone-in to debate the manager's future.

Ferguson's record over the last six seasons has been extraordinary — but 53 per cent of the callers (465) said he should go while 47 per cent (418) said he should stay.

Fans have been angered by the close-season sales of Paul Ince to Inter Milan and Mark Hughes to Chelsea. Now Andrei Kanchelskis seems to be on his way.

"He is quoted as saying that his heart is with United but he can't stay for one simple reason — the manager. What is wrong? Could it be that it is time for a change of manager?"

"Some fans will be saying it is, and you can understand them. The biggest club in Britain wants success and maybe a change at the helm is what is needed now."

Ferguson has had personal problems with players in the past, most notably with Republic of Ireland's world class centre back Paul McGrath. Ferguson controversially sold him to Aston Villa suggesting that his traditionally weak knees would not last much longer.

Two World Cup Finals later people may find that synopsis rather hard to swallow.

Ince, no stranger to knowing how to counter attack as he is a cousin of World Boxing champion Nigel Benn, was bitter about the way he felt was forced to leave Old Trafford and rejected Ferguson's version that he had

actively sought to join Inter Milan.

Ferguson was quoted earlier in the Ince transfer saga as believing it was a good move for the player and Manchester United. Ince himself had always publicly declared that he did not wish to leave United and he disliked the style in which the Italians played their football.

Kanchelskis' rift with Ferguson has been public for some time but his manager was particularly irritated when the Ukrainian born Russian international returned from international duty complaining about a mystery stomach injury.

Ferguson had him checked by several doctors and nothing was discovered but Kanchelskis refused to play as he insisted he was injured.

The inspirational winger was a member of the "Russian rebels" that refused to go to last year's World Cup finals owing to a disagreement with the coach.

After failing to deliver a trophy last season Ferguson knows he is under pressure in the coming months, despite winning two Premiership titles, the FA Cup twice, the League Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

That is the nature of the job when one manages a massive club like Manchester United and he knows that. But the thought of him not being at the helm for the foreseeable future seems incomprehensible.

## Reynolds gets unannounced visit from IAAF

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Two representatives of the governing body of international track and field made an unannounced visit to the home of track star Butch Reynolds to request a urine sample, according to a broadcast report.

On Friday, WCMH-TV in Columbus said Reynolds gave the sample Thursday to the representatives from the International Amateur Athletic Federation at his home in Westerville, then went to a local hospital for an independent urine analysis.

Nursing supervisor Mercy Ovuorie confirmed that Reynolds had his urine tested at St. Ann's Hospital and said she could not comment on the results of the test.

Reynolds, 30, a gold and

silver medalist in the 1988 Olympics, has held the world record of 43.29 seconds in the 400 metres since 1988, when he set it in Zurich, Switzerland.

The former Ohio state athlete has been in a legal battle with the IAAF since it suspended him in 1990 for nearly 2½ years after he allegedly tested positive for steroids.

He denies ever taking steroids and is continuing to compete. He finished second in the 400 in last month's national championships at Sacramento, Calif., and will be on the U.S. team for this year's World Championships at Göteborg, Sweden.

"I'm all for drug testing," he told the television station. "I have taken over 100 drug

tests in my life... I think it's an invasion of privacy for people to come to my door unannounced when I'm entertaining guests... it's an invasion of my constitutional rights."

Messages requesting comment were left Friday night at Reynolds' telephone number and at the office of his Columbus attorneys. A man answering the telephone at the IAAF offices in Monaco said he could not speak English.

On Nov. 5, 1990, the IAAF suspended Reynolds from all competition until Aug. 12, 1992. It said a urine specimen believed to have come from Reynolds tested positive for nandrolone, a banned steroid, after a meet in Monaco on Aug. 12, 1990. Reynolds said the test was faulty.

He fought the suspension in the courts and on June 20, 1992, was granted an emergency order from a U.S.

Supreme Court justice that allowed him to run in the U.S. Olympic trials. He failed to qualify for the Olympics and had the suspension extended until Jan. 1, 1993, by the IAAF, which said his participation in the trials was not in the best interest of the sport.

Reynolds was reinstated after the suspension ended, but continued to request damages and penalties from the IAAF for the period he was sidelined.

Reynolds also sued the IAAF in federal court in Columbus. He said its public announcement of the test result defamed him, denied him due process and cost him income.

The IAAF presented no defence, saying the court had no jurisdiction.

A U.S. district court judge ordered the IAAF to pay Reynolds 27.4 million, but a federal appeals court overturned the decision.

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## Yemen offers Egypt a security pact

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Yemen, accused by Cairo of links to militants in Egypt, has proposed a security cooperation deal between the two countries, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said here Saturday.

"There is a project for security cooperation between Egypt and Yemen to guarantee the security and stability of both peoples," Mr. Saleh said at a joint press conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"Yemen made this proposal several days ago. I cannot speak about the texts themselves now but as soon as we arrive at a final formula it will be announced," Mr. Mubarak said.

The two leaders held a second day of talks here on Saturday, before Mr. Mubarak escorted Mr. Saleh to the Mediterranean coastal city's

airport. The Yemeni president arrived Friday in Egypt on the last leg of a tour which has taken him to Qatar, Syria and Jordan.

Their talks focused on "reestablishing Arab solidarity" shattered by the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict, the two leaders said.

"We discussed a number of matters on how to return the waters to their course," Mr. Saleh said.

There have been a flurry of contacts between Cairo and Sanaa since the attempt on Mr. Mubarak's life on June 26 in Addis Ababa and Egyptian accusations that some of the gunmen had Yemeni passports.

Egyptian security services have several times said that Egyptian militants coming from Pakistan have passed through Yemen before arriv-

ing in Egypt. The charges have been denied by Sanaa. "We condemn all acts of violence and terrorism in any country," Mr. Saleh said. "No country should allow its lands to open up to terrorists."

Yemen handed over to Egypt some suspects last year and Cairo has not recently aired any grievance against Sanaa.

Mr. Saleh said he had detected a "complete Arab awakening" with all states keen to undo the damage which the Gulf war did to Arab unity.

"I found the same feeling (in all the countries) and it's a positive phenomenon that everyone is seeking to pick up the pieces which the war left. We must stand together," he said.

Yemen was sympathetic towards Iraq during the war

and only this year has Mr. Saleh managed to mend relations with Saudi Arabia.

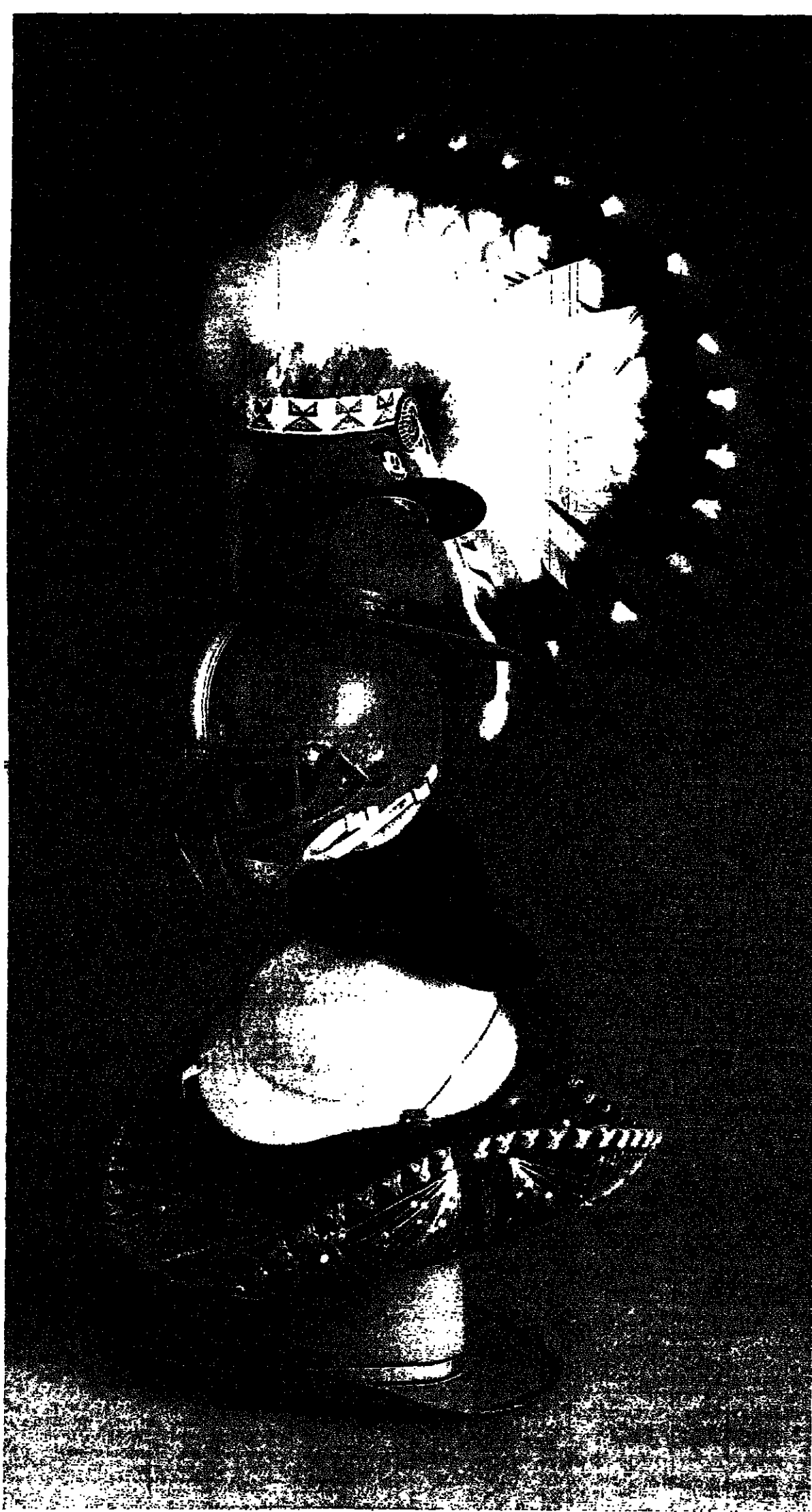
"Clearing the air in the Arab World is of the essence," said Mr. Mubarak. "The Yemeni-Saudi disputes are on their way to being solved and there's flexibility on both sides."

Both presidents said they favoured strengthening the Arab League as the institution for joint Arab action.

Mr. Saleh met earlier Saturday with Arab League Secretary General Esmat Meguid to discuss ways of healing lingering rifts with the Arab World following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Mr. Saleh expressed his "desire to clear the atmosphere in the Arab World and restore Arab solidarity" Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters.

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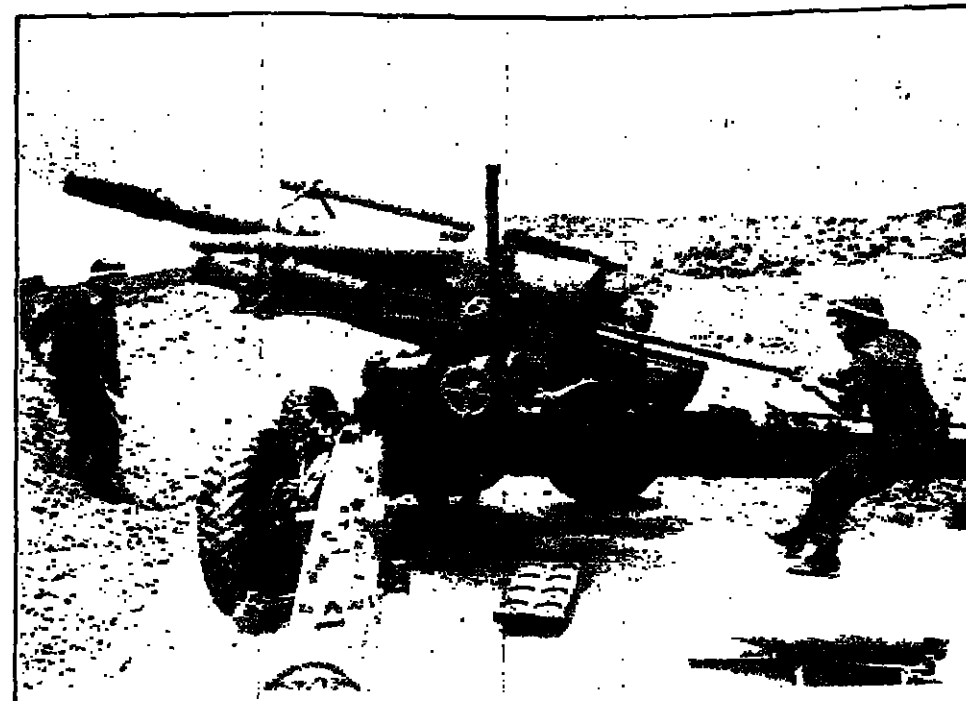
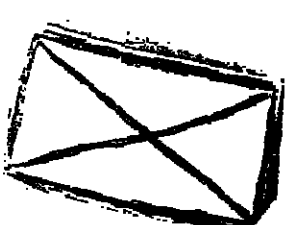
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HEAVY ARMOUR: Members of Israel's South of Jezzine in the centre of the Jewish state's Lebanese Army (SLA) clean heavy artillery self-declared security zone in South Lebanon unit on a hill protecting the access to the town (AFP photo)

## Al Ahd says it won 79 municipal seats

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The pro-government Al Ahd party Saturday announced that 79 candidates of the 100 candidates party fielded in the last week's municipal elections had won.

The head of the party, Abdul Hadi Majali, told that the party did not publish the names of its candidates before the elections because they feared they might lose.

"We were afraid that we would lose 15 per cent of the votes if we announced the names of our candidates before the elections," Mr. Majali said. "But next time, we will announce the names a month earlier."

Al Ahd, which advocates peace with Israel, lost the mayorship in Madaba, Karak and Salt but won in Ma'an. Out of the 79 Al Ahd members who won, 24 are mayors of municipal councils in different parts of the Kingdom and 54 are council members. Al Ahd has also a member in the Amman Municipality, Mohammad Kawakneh.

"We also supported the National Bloc that won in Zarqa," Mr. Majali said. According to Mr. Majali, the Islamists lost in Zarqa because they refused to forge alliances with other parties and groups. The National Bloc included two leftists and one Christian. The leftists did not win, the Christian did.

"We are not attacking the Islamists or the Islamic Action Front in particular, nor are we in confrontation with them. We are only saying the truth and defending our country in line with the Constitution," Mr. Majali said.

Mr. Majali said the party will also seek cooperation with other council mayors and members who are not Al Ahd affiliates or sympathisers. "More than 80 per cent of the council members and mayors are from the national stream," he said. "We have a lot in common."

Al Ahd was established in December 1992. Although it had a membership of more than 12,000 last year according to its last year, it now includes only 2,500.

The reduction of party members "was part of our restructuring policy," one Al Ahd member said.

Al Ahd is primarily based on tribal affiliation and family relations. It has seven ministers in the current cabinet.

"We support the government's policies. There is nothing wrong about that," Mr. Majali said. "There is nothing wrong with tribalism either. This is Jordan and not Switzerland."



Abdul Hadi Majali

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## Accord on Chechenya said near

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian and Chechen negotiators are nearing a peace agreement, with only certain "technical details" now outstanding, the head of the Chechen separatist delegation said Saturday.

As talks resumed in the devastated Chechen capital Grozny, Usman Imaev told reporters: "All the major questions before the delegations are probably already solved."

"All that remains are agreements on certain technical details."

He had returned from two days of consultations with Chechen field commanders in the mountains of southern Chechenya, during which he presented them with a Russian proposal to solve the thorny question of the break-away republic's political status.

"We will not leave here. We will stay overnight here, to make sure we have an agreement," said Imaev.

"We have agreed to 17 paragraphs from their proposals, and they have agreed on the same number. Several dozen paragraphs are still awaiting agreement."

Earlier several Chechen military leaders said that they agreed with a draft text for a peace accord.

The talks are being held at the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) here.

Russian tanks and troops stormed into Chechenya in December to crush the republic's three-year independence bid. Thousands of civilians, soldiers and rebel fighters have been killed in Russian bombing raids and clashes on the ground.

## Terms of reference approved for study on regional traffic

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A sub-group of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process on Saturday approved the terms of reference for a comprehensive study on regional traffic.

The infrastructure committee of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG), one of the five multilateral panels set up shortly after the launch of the Middle East peace process in October 1991, also recognised that "there were important rehabilitation and new investment projects required immediate attention and reviewed criteria for the selection of such projects," said a statement issued by the committee and released by the Ministry of Planning.

The statement did not give details of the discussions of the committee, which was meeting for the second time in Jordan in two months to give shape to key infrastructure projects of benefit to all parties in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The infrastructure committee, meeting under the chairmanship of Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Nabil Annari, includes the four "core" parties in the peace process — Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians — as well as the European Union, the U.S. and several other countries.

The study on regional traffic is of key importance to

drawing up a comprehensive strategy to meet the rising demands of the region as the state of peace sets in among the Arabs and Israelis.

"The study will provide a model of traffic flows, estimates of the costs of various modes of transport — road, rail and maritime — and, on the basis of this research, an estimate of the likely traffic flows for specific modes and routes," said the statement.

"This analysis will be crucial in planning future regional investments in the transport sector," it noted.

One of the projects in the transport sector is a highway linking Egypt's Taba sea resort with Eilat and Aqaba. Other projects include an ambitious Jordanian programme to upgrade and expand its railroads and expand the Aqaba seaport facilities.

Israel and Egypt have their own projects, but the feasibility of all proposals have to be determined in light of the findings of the regional traffic study, which is financed by the European Union (EU).

The Ministry of Planning said that the meeting agreed that "resources in the transport sector, both domestically-generated and external, are limited and must be applied in a manner which will secure the best possible to support the economic and social development of the region."

"The (regional traffic) study, designed to provide a reliable forecast of the effects of the peace process on regional transport flow, will

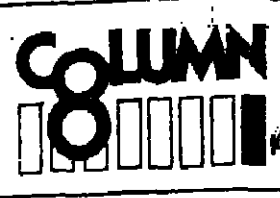
help ensure that these investments can be focused on the most efficient and cost-effective modes of transport and routes."

The meeting "expresses its appreciation" of the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, for the efforts "which have made to prepare the terms of reference and urged that the study be implemented as a matter of urgency."

This particular emphasis was taken as an implicit reference to the fact that regional infrastructure projects, including transport projects, are expected to be discussed in detail at the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in October in Amman.

The meeting agreed that unless new investment projects "are critically dependent on other investment decisions relating overall regional planning or preempt broader development options, their implementation should not be delayed."

That referred to the projects individually drawn up by Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians in a semi-regional dimension. According to officials, if any of the parties wanted to go ahead with a project, which also have a national character but is part of a regional structure, it should go ahead and implement the project without waiting for the deliberations of the working group but taking into account the regional dimension.



## Baboon marrow transplant backed for AIDS patient

WASHINGTON (R) — A radical experiment to try to save the life of a dying AIDS patient by giving him a baboon bone marrow transplant got backing Friday from a U.S. team of health advisers.

"I am going to die anyway. Let's get on with finding some answers about this disease. If this saves me, then I got lucky," said Jeff Getty, the 37-year-old man who has volunteered to be the first to undergo what even his own doctors describe as a "long shot" therapy. Though this is not the first time animal cells or organs will be implanted in a human, cross-species procedures are rare and controversial because they can expose people to viruses or other disease-causing agents found in animals. Even human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, is thought to have originated in monkeys, although scientists are not sure how it spread to humans. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration still must approve the experiment, which will be done on only one person. But a team of researchers hopes to perform the transplant on Mr. Getty in early September.

Members of the FDA's Biological Response Modifiers Advisory Panel were pessimistic that this would save the life of Mr. Getty, who has lived with AIDS for 15 years but whose health has now deteriorated.

New U.N. agency to fight AIDS launched

GENEVA (AFP) — A new United Nations agency to coordinate the fight against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) was launched here with an estimated budget of \$140 million. The governing council of UN-AIDS met to appoint U.S. Ambassador Sally Shelton as its chairman and South African Health Minister Dlamini Zuma its vice-chairman for a three-year term. The U.N. decided at the end of last year to set up a new agency to coordinate the efforts of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the U.N. Population Fund. It had been found that the various agencies had been competing for funds, duplicating activities and in some cases giving contradictory advice to governments.

Liv Ullmann wants to give medal back to Chirac

STOCKHOLM (R) — Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann wants to return a prestigious medal to French President Jacques Chirac in protest at France's decision to resume nuclear testing.

Swedish daily Aftonbladet said, Ullmann, filming in Stockholm, sent a handwritten fax to Mr. Chirac in protest at the planned tests and said she would soon return her French Order of Arts and Letters, the paper said. "Wouldn't you be the first to protest if a country far from your own decided to test its destructive might in your part of the world?" Ullmann wrote to Mr. Chirac. Aftonbladet said.

Robot headed to Mars named after black activist

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The first robot to visit Mars was named Sojourner in honour of an American black activist as the result of an international contest for school children. Twelve-year-old Valerie Ambrose of Connecticut came up with the winning name inspired by Sojourner Truth, who fought for civil rights during the American Civil War. Some 3,500 youths on five continents participated in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) contest to name the six-wheeled robot recruited for the first mission to Mars. Sojourner will take off in December 1996 for its seven-month visit to the "red planet."

Policeman, killed in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A militant policeman and a civilian were killed in a tense area of Egypt. The attack, after police rounded up suspected extremists, occurred on Saturday.

Police, long a target of Egyptian secular government, were the victims of the attack. Details of the attack were not immediately available. But police shot and killed a militant and a civilian, a police spokesman said.

Tajik president visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Tajik President Evtimiyev arrived here on the first visit to the Central Asian state. Mr. Evtimiyev, a high-ranking politician and economist, was greeted by his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Mohtashami.